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ONE PENNY. [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

THIRD EDITION.
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE.
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

THE REVOLUTION IN CHILI.

200 WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED.

BURNOS ATRES, February 25.—Advices which have to-day been received regarding the capture of Iquique by the Chilean Parliamentary forces report that the insurgents, after bombarding the town, landed and seized the Customs House. Six of the principal squares were reduced to ruins, and it is declared that over 200 women and children perished in the wrecked houses. The victors pillaged all the principal houses. The bombardment of the town was suspended at the request of the British admiral, General Soto, the officer in command of the Government troops at Iquique, surrendered the town to the insurgent squadron. The insurgents then landed more troops to hold the town, and despatched part of their force up country to fight the Government troops.

NEW YORK, February 27.—The captain of the German sailing vessel Orient, which has arrived here, reports that while the vessel was at Valparaiso, shots were frequently exchanged between the forts and the warships belonging to the insurgents, and the Orient's spars bear evidence of the Chilean marksmanship. The captain says:—"As nearly as I could make out the army and navy were fighting for supremacy. After great difficulty we managed to get ashore, and then the Germans consuls was obliged to go through many formalities and accompany me to the wharf before I was able to return to my ship. The port was crowded with shipping, and every now and then a gunboat would drop into the harbour and exchange shots with the forts. A few days before we sailed one of the forts dropped a shell into a gunboat, killing eight men and wounding twelve others. The only foreign warship in the harbour was the British cruiser Waspire, the captain of which did all in his power to help the ships' captains, whether British, American, or German. There was going to be a battle between Chilean warships and the forts, and the commander of the Waspire sent word to all the vessels in the port that he advised them, if possible, to put to sea. Nearly all the ships took this advice, but when they got outside there was a dead calm. A new German ship, the Potadam, went ashore, and was wrecked. All the crew, however, escaped. When the Orient left Valparaiso earthworks were being thrown up to protect the town."

A Dalziel's despatch from Iquique, via Galveston, says:—A great battle was fought on February 15th on the Pampa at Dolores, when the Government troops were defeated with a loss of about 500 men. On the following day Iquique surrendered to the fleet. A riot took place on the same night caused by a mob of incendiaries who attempted to fire the city, but the disturbance was quelled by the fleet and an armed force of foreign residents. One hundred and seventy-five of the mob were killed or wounded. On the 17th an encounter took place between the Government and Opposition troops, and the latter suffered a check on the Pampa, near Huara. On the following day, the 18th, the revolutionary soldiers who had captured Iquique were surprised by a remnant of the Government troops and defeated. There was hard fighting on the Pampa all the morning, and fighting in the town until night. The Opposition held Intendencia, while the fleet kept up a constant bombardment in order to protect Intendencia and cover the landing of the Marines. The business portion of Iquique was fired by incendiaries the same evening. Captain the Hon. Hedworth Lambton, of H.M.S. Waspire, landed under fire for the purpose of arranging an armistice, and taking on board any of the remaining women and children who might desire to leave. An armistice was declared till noon on the 20th, through the mediation of Rear-admiral Hotcham. On the afternoon of the 29th the Government troops were surrendered to the fleet by Colonel Soto, who had fought gallantly for the town, which was now in the possession of the revolutionaries. No foreign residents were killed, and the women and children, residents of the town, are living mostly on the ships in the harbour, while the men are remaining in the city. The hospital is full of wounded. It is expected that a decisive battle will soon take place north of Pisagua. Much loss of life and damage to property was avoided by Admiral Hotcham, in command of the English warships Waspire, Esquile, and Pheasant, which were in the bay on the 21st.

Intelligence received in Liverpool states that the members of the family of President Balmaceda are now in safety in the Argentine country. The President, when he saw that matters might become critical, is reported to have at once sent his family over the Cordilleras.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PLOT AGAINST THE KING OF ITALY.

ROMA, February 25.—The trial commenced here to-day, before the Assize Court, of the three men Calzoni, Pedroni, and Pennachi, who are charged with being concerned in a plot against the life of King Humbert in 1880. His Majesty at that time received from Perugia a letter signed by the Nihilist Society, declaring that unless he abdicated before March 21st he would be blown up with dynamite. In the month of June, while the prisoner Calzoni was in Rome, a box containing twenty dynamite cartridges, addressed to him, was received at Perugia, and was at once seized by the police. The prisoner Pennachi went to the post office to claim the box on behalf of Calzoni, and was immediately arrested, while Pedroni, who sent the cartridges, was also arrested at the same time at Ancona. Calzoni, in his defence, denied that there was any plot against the King, but admitted that he was an anarchist. He declared that he did not know the sender of the box, and added that he only asked Pennachi to receive his correspondence during his

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

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JACK A-CRUISE. BY AN A.B.

III.—BLUE WATER.

The island of Madeira lay further off than we imagined after first sighting it, and it was nearly noon when we steamed into the pretty bay of Funchal and dropped our anchor under the shadow of the old Portuguese fort which stands on a little island in the centre of the harbour. Loft mountains reared their heads around us, and their green slopes, covered with vineyards and orange groves, gave to the balmy air which blew softly over them, a fragrance that was delightful after the close atmosphere between decks that we had experienced during our passage across the bay. Crowds of boats, full of ripe fruit and all sorts of curios, gathered round us, and made us ready to get ashore and have a look round. We did not get ashore that day though, as the ship had to be coaled; but when that was finished, and she had been thoroughly washed down and cleaned up, leave was given to one watch, and the boys were allowed to land until sunset. Need I say we all jumped at the chance, and by the o'clock we were all ashore and making our way up the mountain side to what is known as the convent. In Madeira there is one great peculiarity about the roads, and that is they are all made of smooth round cobbles, so that the carts have no wheels, but run on wedges.

Our object in going up to the convent was to get each in one of the sand sledges—something like an English toboggan—and, with a man slaving from behind, to fly down the steep slope of about two miles at a headlong speed. Well, we started fair enough, each boy with his man shoving behind, but, to our disgust, after going about a quarter of a mile they stopped and demanded liquor at a wayside inn. This we gave them, but when we found them trying the old game on two or three times, it was too much for British blue-jacket feelings, and we flatly refused on which they in their return refused to go any further. Then began an awful row, and the end of it was that we took the law into our own hands by taking of the sledges ourselves, one half of us inside, and the other half pushing behind, whilst the Portuguese gave chase with the remaining sledges, trying to collide with us and we trying to ram them, and it was a mercy we were not killed by the time we reached the bottom. The sledges were nearly knocked to pieces—and so were we, too, for the matter of that—and, thinking discretion the better part of valour, we made our way on board before we ran any risk of finding a knife in our backs. We heard no more of the affair, for we sailed at daybreak the next morning, and, in spite of the row, all we boys felt very fit after what was, to most of us, our first landing on foreign soil.

We left harbour with sails furled, and the engines driving us along at an easy speed of six knots. For the winds we knew would be variable till we reached the limit of the "trades." This did not mean, though, that we were going to escape our various drills; far from it. Advantage was taken of this spell of easy going to make us proficient in all sorts of other exercises, such as fire-quarters, manning and arming boats at the davits, getting out collision mats, and, what was most important of all, general quarters. Friday forenoon in every week is always devoted in a man-of-war to this exercise, and a very important one it is. At the last sound of the bugle the whole ship is in a bustle, though not confusion, while every man flies to his appointed post, wherever it may be, whether at the machine gun in the top, the heavy guns on deck, the magazines, shell-rooms, hand-wheel-stretcher party, or what not, and when everything is cleared away and the men have provided and placed their rifles and cutlasses in the racks, the officers report their respective quarters "cleared away" to the captain on the bridge. My quarters were in the fore magazine, where the powder for the four foremost large guns was stored, and I found it a very different sort of place to what I had imagined it to be. Not a grain of powder was to be seen anywhere, but, instead of that, neatly arranged racks filled with square corrugated metal cases, each case containing two charges, each charge consisting of 10lb. of grain powder enclosed in a sausagelike silk cloth bag. The cases had screw-off lids, which were opened in the magazine; the cartridges were then pulled out, placed in a long leather powder case, and in this way handed up through holes in the deck to the battery above. All this was done when the bugle sounded to quarters, and in less time than I take to write it, every gun had been cleared away, loaded, and trained on the beam, with the powder men standing at the rear of their guns with their powder cases, whilst the magazines and shell-rooms parties stood by to pass up more ammunition as fast as it was wanted. The shot and shell were stowed in racks down in their magazine, and passed up smartly to the deck above by means of winch hoists. Our ship, you must remember, though, was of a more or less primitive type, and the arrangements for fighting the guns were simply absurd compared to what is done in the modern battleships with their mammoth guns, which I hope to tell you all about in a subsequent article. Although once a week is the usual number of times this duty is carried out, we did it every forenoon for four days so as to get properly into the way of it, as we were only newly commissioned, and the men wanted a little extra practice to get into the way of it.

We were steering an almost southerly course during this time, and it was not long before we found ourselves picking up the N.E. trade wind, when we set sail with studding sails on one side, and headed away for Antigua, the island in the West Indies that we were bound for. The heat, though tempered by the trade wind, was getting rather trying, and glad the men were when one evening after muster, and our work for the day was finished, the captain ordered the ship to be "hove to," and an opportunity given us to have a bathe. It was a curious sensation, swimming about in mid-ocean with nearly four miles of water beneath one. The sea, which from the ship seemed fairly smooth, appeared to me with my head close down on the waters to be just the opposite, for a long sweeping swell was running so much "up" at times the

bulk of the ship was completely hidden from view. And now an incident occurred that might have been attended with the most awful results. Nearly all the whale ship's company of 200 men were overboard, and by some mischance the ship's head began to fall off the wind, with the result that slowly, but surely, she began to sail away from us. Imagine the excitement and horror of us men in the water, and of those on board, too. The first thing we saw was a shower of gratings, buoys, breakers, planks, spars, and, in fact, everything that could float, being pitched overboard for the men to support themselves on, for no one knew how long we might have to remain in the water, and the only thing near us was the little two-masted dingey that had been lowered beforehand. It was an anxious time, for some of us were very weak swimmers, but every one set to work to help and cheer each other up, and great was our relief when we saw the topsail yards rattling down to the caps, the head sheets and halyards let go, and the ship slowly turned back on her heel and came to a dead stop. Then the lifeboats were quickly lowered, with crews made up of any one who could pull an oar, and we were all, thank God, picked up safely, though we had been nearly half an hour in the water, and some of the men were nearly "done." It was a narrow "squeak" altogether, and I don't think many of us would care to bathe again in mid-ocean from a ship that had no steam up and only her sails to trust to. It was my middle watch that night, and some of us thought we would try and catch some flying fish, of which we had seen a good many about. So, after getting permission from the officers of the watch, we slung a lantern over the side with a bucket just underneath, and before long we were rewarded by hearing a hard thud against the lantern, and on hauling the bucket up we found a fine flying fish struggling at the bottom of it. The fish being attracted by the light just over the water, had flown right at it, with the result that it was brought up "all standing" and fell into the bucket waiting to receive it. We caught a good many this way and found them excellent eating, and rather like the English herring in taste. The officers had a try at shark fishing the next day, but were unsuccessful through the brute biting right through the piece of wire-rope attached to the bait, though they had a good morsel to digest in the shape of a large iron barbed hook. As day after day went past signs of land, such as birds, weed, and timber, gradually increased, and on a Sunday evening, just as the sun was setting, we sighted the island of Antigua, appearing as a thin grey line just above the distant horizon.

(To be continued.)

THE GARDEN. (WINTER SPECIALTY FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

USEFUL HARDY BORDER FLOWERS.

Hollyhocks are useful for backgrounds, and may be planted out early. Seedlings from a good strain are, for decorative purposes, nearly as good as named flowers, and may be purchased at much less cost. The ground must be rich and deep. The best plan is to dig holes eighteen inches over and as deep, and fill in the soil with manure. The roots of the plants will then grow well. When the flowers are out, the soil should be raked over, and the seedlings transplanted.

CHOICE FLOWER SEEDS.—*S. P. Pearce, 10, Newgate Street, London, W.C.*—*Autumn, 1890.*—*Chrysanthemum, Sweet Peas, Nasturtiums, Canterbury Peacock, Stocks, &c.*—*One Shilling free.*—*M. C. Hayes, 2, Great Marlborough Street, W.C.*—*Autumn, 1890.*—*London, W.C.*—*One Shilling free.*—*W. H. D. Hayes, 2, Great Marlborough Street, W.C.*—*Autumn, 1890.*—*London, W.C.*—*One Shilling free.*

CHOICE VEGETABLE SEEDS.—*S. P. Pearce, 10, Newgate Street, London, W.C.*—*Autumn, 1890.*—*Carrot, Turnip, Radish, and Cress, Half-penny Turnip, One Farthing Lettuce, Carrot, Brussels Sprout, Cabbage, &c.*—*One Shilling free.*—*M. C. Hayes, 2, Great Marlborough Street, W.C.*—*Autumn, 1890.*—*London, W.C.*—*One Shilling free.*

SEED POTATOES.—*SEEDS OF SHED AWAY FATS.*

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(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

ERIC BRIGHTEYES.

BY

E. RIDER HAGGARD.**CHAPTER XIV.**

HOW ERIC DREAMED A DREAM.

Now when the men of Ospakar, who were gathered on the poop of the dragon, saw what had come about, they shouted aloud and made ready to sink the pair. But Eric and Skallagrim clambered to the mast and got their backs against it, and swiftly made themselves fast with a rope, so that they might not fall with the rolling of the ship. Then the people of Ospakar came on to cut them down.

But this was no easy task, for they might scarcely stand, and they could not shoot with the bow. Moreover, Eric and Skallagrim, being bound to the mast, had the use of both hands and were minded to die hard. Therefore Ospakar's folks got but one thing by their onslaught, and that was the mancasse, for three of their number fell beneath the long sweep of Whitefire, and one bowed before the axe of Skallagrim. Then they drew back and strove to throw spears at these two, but they flew wide because of the rolling of the ship. One spear struck the mast near the head of Skallagrim. He drew it out, and, waiting till the ship steadied herself in the trough of the sea, hurled it mightily at a knot of Ospakar thralls, and a man got his death from it. After that they threw no more spears.

Then once more they came on with swords and axes, but faint-heartedly; and the end of it was that they lost four more men dead and wounded and fell back again. Skallagrim mocked at them with bitter words, and one of them, made mad thereby, cast a heavy ballast-stone at him. It fell upon his shoulder and numbed him. "Now I am unfeet for fight, lord," said Skallagrim, "for my right arm is dead, and I can scarcely hold my axe."

"That is ill, then," said Eric, "for we have little help, save from each other, and I, too, am well-nigh spent. Well, we have done a great deed, and now it is time to rest."

"It is my last arm while, lord, and I can make shift for a while with it. Cut loose the cord ere they bait us to death, and let us rush upon these dogs and fall fighting."

"A good counsel," said Eric, "and a quick end; but stay a while: what plan have they now?"

Now the men of Ospakar, having little heart left in them for such work as this, had taken thought together.

"We have got great mancasses, and little honour," said the mate. "There are but nineteen of us left alive, and that is scarcely enough to work the ship, and it seems that we shall be fewer before Eric Brighteyes and Skallagrim Lambastil lie quiet by yonder mast. They are mighty men, indeed, and it would be better, methinks, to deal with them by craft, rather than by force."

The sailors said that this was a good word, for they were weary of the sight of Whitefire as he flamed on high and the sound of the axe of Skallagrim as it crashed through helm and byrane, and as fear crept in valour fled out.

"This is my rede, then," said the mate: "that we go to them and give them peace, and lay them in bonds, swearing that we will put them ashore when we are come back to Iceland. But when we have them fast, as they sleep at night, we will creep on them and hurl them into the sea, and thereafter we will say that we slew them fighting."

"An ill deed," said a man.

"Then go thou up against them," answered the mate. "If we lay them not, then shall this tale be told against us throughout Iceland: that a ship's company were worsted of two men, and we may not live beneath that shame."

The man held his peace, and the mate, laying down his arms, crept forward alone towards the mast, just as Eric and Skallagrim were about to cut themselves loose and rush on them.

"What wouldst thou?" shouted Eric. "Has it gone so well with you with arms that ye are minded to come up against us bearing none?"

"It has gone ill, Eric," said the mate. "For ye twain are too mighty for us. We have lost many men, and we shall lose more: ye're laid low. Therefore we make you this offer: that you lay down your arms and suffer yourselves to be bound till such time as we touch land, where we will set you ashore and give you your arms again, and, meanwhile, we will deal with you in friendly fashion, giving you of the best we have, nor will we set on foot any fit against you for those of our number whom ye two have slain."

"Therefore then should we be bound?" said Eric.

"For this reason only: that we dare not leave you free within our ship. Now choose, and, if ye will, take peace which we offer by all the gods we will keep towards you, and, if ye will not, then we will bear you down with bows and staves, and stones, and say 'you.'

"What thinkest thou, Skallagrim?" said Eric beneath his breath.

"Methinks I find little faith in your 'face,'" answered Skallagrim. "Still, I am unfit to fight, and thy strength is spent; so that it seems that we must lie low if we would rise again. They can scarcely be so base as to do me under, having handseised peace to us."

"I am not so sure of that," said Eric: "still, starving tramps must eat of bones. Heardest thou: we take the terms, trusting to your honour; and I say this: that ye shall get shame and death if ye depart from them to harm us."

"Have no fear, lord," said the mate. "we are true men."

"That we shall look to your deeds to learn," said Eric, laying down his sword and shield.

Skallagrim did likewise, though with no good grace. Then men came with strong cords and bound them fast hand and foot, holding them fearlessly as men handle a live bear in a net. Then they led them forward to the prow.

Asthey went Eric looked up. Yonder, twenty furlongs and more away, sailed the Gudruda.

"This is good fellowship," said Skallagrim, "thus to leave us in the trap."

"Nay," answered Eric. "They may not put about in such a sea, and doubtless as they hold us dead. Nevertheless if ever it comes about that Hall and I stand face to face again, there will be need for me to stand on gentleness."

"I shall think little thereof," groaned Skallagrim.

Now that were come to the new

and there was a half deck under which they were set, out of reach of the wind and water. In the deck was a stout iron ring, and the men made them fast with ropes to it, so that they might move but little, and they set their helms and weapons behind them in such fashion that they could in no wise come at them. Then they flung cloaks about them, and brought them food and drink, of which they stood much in need, and treated them well in every way. But for all this Skallagrim treated them no more.

"We are now hooked, lord," he said, "and they give us line. Presently they will haul in."

"Evil comes soon enough," answered Eric, "small need to run to greet it," and he fell to thinking of Gudruda, and of the day's deeds, till presently he dropped asleep, for he was very weary.

"How goes it with that hurt of thine?" he asked.

"Better than I had thought," said Skallagrim, "the soreness has come out with the bruise."

"That is good news," said Eric, "for methinks, unless Swanchild walked the seas for nothing, thou wilt soon need thine arms."

"They have never failed me yet," said Skallagrim, and took his axe and shield. "What counsel now?"

"This, Skallagrim: that we lie down as were, and put the ropes about us as though they yet were whole. Then, if these knaves come, we can take them unawares as they think to take us."

So they went again to where they had been bound, and lay down upon their shields and weapons, drawing cloaks over them. Moreover, they made the rope fast to the broken ring, but in such fashion that it would not hold. Scarcely had they done this when a while, when they and the mate and all the crew coming along both boards towards them. They bore no weapons in their hands.

"None too soon did Swanchild walk," said Eric, "now we shall learn their purpose. Be thou ready to leap forth when I give the word."

"Aye, lord," answered Skallagrim as he worked his stiff arm to and fro. "In such matters none have thought me backward."

"What news, friends?" cried Eric as the men drew near.

"Ill news for thee, Brighteyes," answered the mate, "and that Bareark thrall of thine, for we must loose your bands."

"If it is fate it will befall," he said in his dream.

"Nay, it shall not befall. Put forth all thy might and burst thy bonds. Then fetch Whitefire; cut away the bonds of Skallagrim, and give him his axe and shield. This done, place the cords loosely about you, and wait till the murderers come. Then rise and rush on them, the two of you, and they shall melt before your might."

"The Childhood and Youth of Dickens," by Robert Langton, F.R.H.S., published by Hutchinson and Co. A small edition of this work was published some seven years ago to subscribers only, but the additions and alterations made to it since then render it virtually a new book. Contributions to our knowledge of the lives of great men are always acceptable, and their early lives are particularly interesting in many cases. The especial feature in the present work is the manner in which it connects the life of Dickens with his books, and shows how often he refers to the scenes of his childhood. The illustrations are very interesting in this volume, and contain pictures of all the pieces most intimately connected with the great author's early life. Altogether it is a very valuable work for the admirers of Dickens, who constitute a very large part of the reading public. The same publisher issues a "Handy Guide to Australasia," by George Collins Levey, a very useful book for intending emigrants to Australia, and other useful information. Messrs. Cassell and Co.'s last edition of the National Library is the "Voyages and Travels of Marco Polo." The Official Year Book of the Church of England ("Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge") contains, as usual, an immense mass of useful information in its 600 and odd pages. No clergyman should be without this invaluable work of reference, nor any layman either who desires to keep himself informed as to the ground covered by the great Protestant organisation. We fear that not much can be said for "The Greymare Romance," by Edwin J. Ellis, published by George Allen. It seems to be intended for children, but is evidently unsuitable. Few children would care much for the humour which runs through the uninteresting story, while to adults it is almost intolerable. Nor are the pictures by the author very much better, for the horses are constrained into the most impossible and unnatural attitudes.

"Bide a while, lord," he answered, "there that which I will bring with me."

"For a while," Eric waited and then called aloud. "Swit, thou fool; swift! smite his breath."

"Oh, sir, I beseech you," said Eric: "I am young, and there is a maid who waits me out in Iceland, and it is hard to die." And he made as though he wept, while Skallagrim laughed within his sleeve, for it was strange to see Eric fearing fear.

"Thou art a man," said Eric, "and I am a woman, and this is a maid who waits me out in Iceland, and it is hard to die."

"Little need for that," cried Eric, and lo! the cords about him and Skallagrim burst asunder. Out they came with a roar, they came out as a she-bear from her cave, and lo! high above Brighteyes' golden curlis, Whitefire shone in the pale light, and nigh to it shone the axe of Skallagrim. Whitefire fared aloft, then down he fell and was hidden a while in the false heart of the mate. Shone the great axe of Skallagrim and was lost in the breast of the carle who stood before him.

"Trolls!" shrieked one. "Here we are!" and turned to fly. But again Whitefire was up and that man few not far—one pace, no more. Then they fled screaming and after them came axe and sword. They fled, they fell, they leaped into the sea, till none were left to fall and leap, for they had no time on heart to draw their weapons, and presently Eric Brighteyes and Skallagrim Lambastil stood alone upon the deck—alone with the dead.

"Swanchild is a wise witch," gasped Eric, "and, whatever ill she has done I remember this to her honour."

"Little good comes of witchcraft," answered Skallagrim, wiping his brow; "to-day it works for our hands, tomorrow it shall work against them."

"To the helm," said Eric, "the ship yaws and comes side on to the sea."

Skallagrim sprang to the tiller and put his strength on it, and that none too soon, for one big sea came aboard them and left much water in the hold.

"We owe this to the Bareark thrall," said Eric.

"So some have thought, and perchance more shall think," answered

Eric, "when I am fit to stand again. They may not put about in such a sea, and doubtless as they hold us dead. Nevertheless if ever it comes about that Hall and I stand face to face again, there will be need for me to stand on gentleness."

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OUR OMNIBUS.

PIPER PAN.

The Philharmonic Society's seventy-ninth season will open on Thursday next, when Mr. Frederick Cowen will conduct the unrivaled orchestra, who will play Beethoven's finest symphony, No. 5, in C minor, and other interesting works. Madame Nordica will be the vocalist, and Herr Steinenberg will play in a Beethoven concerto and other pianoforte works. I hear that the Queen has renewed her liberal subscription, and that the guarantee fund exceeds £2,500.

Madame Valda is engaged for the second Philharmonic Concert, March 19th. She has quite recovered from her recent illness, and her fine voice is in excellent order. She sent a list of her solos to the directors of the Philharmonic Society, and they selected the two grand scenes from Rubinstein's opera, "The Demon" and "Nero." It seemed to me that there was something "uncanny" in this association of a demon and a tyrant, and by my advice she will sing Beethoven's "Ahi! Perido" and the polonaise from "Mignon."

A large audience assembled on Wednesday last at St. James's Hall, the attraction being the farewell recital of the wonderful young violinist, Jean Gerardy, just 12 years old. He played splendidly, and I feel little doubt that he will become one of the greatest violinists of our times.

It is absurd to protest—as some writers have done—against "prodigies," so long as there is no reason to believe that clever children, like Jean Gerardy and Otto Hegner, are worked too hard. I have played at "catchball" on Blackheath with little Hegner, and have helped him to fly his kite. He was the picture of health and high spirits, and his father would not allow him to practise the piano for more than three hours a day.

Music is to occupy prominence in "The Coming Race," which is to be performed—for charitable purposes—next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, at the Albert Hall. My friends, Madame Liebhart, Mr. Nicholl, Herr Gans, and Signor Romili, will assist in the musical arrangements, but the secret of the coming show is well kept. A sporting acquaintance of mine asked me seriously if I could tell him what on whom to back in "The Coming Race."

What will become of the hundreds of students who are being trained as operatic singers at the Royal College of Music, the R.C.M., and the Guildhall School? I am reminded of Farnie's reply to the Prince of Wales, when—apropos of the R.C.M.—the prince said to him, "We shall rear plenty of prima donnas for you." Farnie answered, "And how many theatres does your highness propose to build for them?"

Some of my friends express surprise because Messrs. Broadwood have recently advertised their excellent pianofortes. They remind me of the old story of the charity sermon on behalf of some burst-out tradesmen. When the local agent for an insurance office was seen to put a sealed envelope into the collection box, its holder did not know that he should find a bank note in the envelope, but it contained only a sheet of newspaper inscribed, "Let me insure, as they wish to be saved." Without advertising, there is little chance for the best of articles.

If the London School Board persist in teaching their pupils the pianoforte, I shall feel disposed to emigrate. Our School Board rate has risen from 3d. to 10d. in the pound, and will soon be half as much again if this ridiculous scheme is carried out. To teach the children of the poor to sing at sight would cost little, and have a beneficial influence.

I am glad to hear that Lady Hallé is recovering her health; her non-appearance at the Crystal Palace on Saturday last was sincerely deplored.

OLLA PODRIDA.—Mlle. Jeanne Douste will, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday next, give the first three of seven "historical" pianoforte recitals at Steinway Hall.—At the next Monday Popular Concert Mlle. Eibenschütz will play an étude and a scherzo of Chopin's, and Herr Joachim will play Bach's chaconne.—The London Ballad Concert on Wednesday next will commence at three p.m.—The Students' Concert of the Royal Academy of Music will be given next Saturday, eight p.m.—Bach Choir Concert, S.J. Hall, March 10th.—The Royal Choral Society, Albert Hall, will perform Mendelssohn's "St. Paul" Wednesday, March 13th.—Bach's "St. John" Passion music will be performed at St. Marylebone Parish Church, March 12th and 26th. Free admission by tickets, obtainable by sending directed envelopes to Mr. Mackworth, 64, High-street, W.—Miss Agnes Zimmerman will give a pianoforte recital at Steinway Hall, March 12th.—Mlle. Janotha will give a concert at St. James's Hall, March 13th, under the patronage of the Queen.—An Irish concert will be given at S.J. Hall on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Years ago I frequently lectured on music at literary institutions, and always employed the same cabman, who drove well, but had a fearful squint. One evening, while waiting for me, he began singing "Do, re, mi, fa, etc., and I found that he really knew a good deal about music. He also knew a good deal about boxing, and one night I found a crowd in front of my house, and "John" knocking down an opponent, who made no further resistance. When I afterwards remonstrated with John on the danger he, a squinting man, must run in fighting, he grumbled, and replied, "My squint's a great advantage, sir." "How can that be?" I asked, and his answer was "Because they never know where I mean a hittin' on 'em!"

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Among the wonders which are present to be found at Newcastle is a terrier, said to be capable of determining the difference between good and bad money. He is an adept at the art of begging, and when presented with a coin he rewards his labour, he takes it into his mouth to test it. In his opinion, the coin is counterfeit, he drops it, and begins again for a genuine one. When he has obtained one he is given a biscuit, and the whole of the money thus obtained (the price of the biscuits being deducted) is devoted to some charity. Thus, his master lately handed over 12s. 6d., all earned by "Snare" for the children in the Newcastle Royal Infirmary.

There is no need for "Cape Mounted Ride" to apologise for taking up my time. I am always glad to hear from colonial correspondents. This is a very extraordinary, and almost incredible example of feline vitality. I say almost, for I would not care to rashly dub any anecdote of this kind as absolutely incredible, knowing, as I do, how tenaciously cats manage to cling to life. A South African cat kitten, and three out of its five offspring were condemned to death. A string was tied to the necks of the three, and a stone attached to the string. The whole concern was then lowered into a large vat of water, where it was left for a quarter of an hour. The kittens were then boiled out and buried. On the next day the

mother, who had witnessed this, disinterred them, and conveyed the stone and kitten to a stable where she managed to restore their animation, and where they were found taking refreshment with the string still tied round them.

The spring, which we fervently hope will some time not far off give signs of its approach of a definite sort, is generally preceded by the appearance of one or two odd butterflies which, having hibernated for the last five months, are anxious to return to life once more. Already this week two are reported. The first is from "A. H. K." and "F. G.," who, when out for a walk on February 15th, saw a fine butterfly, which a passer-by informed them was a "drum-major." This local name probably signifies the butterfly usually known as the tortoiseshell. On Feb. 18th the same gentleman observed a wasp flying about in a room. Mr. W. Lorking is the other obliging correspondent who found a wasp flying about in St. Peter's Church, St. Leonards-on-Sea, on Tuesday. He sent it to me, because it was the rôle in which Mr. Irving first captivated my judgment. I had seen him first in "Hamlet," in which his grievous mannerisms had repelled me, but this Charles I., as dignified and refined, quite charmed me, showing that he could conquer his mannerisms when he chose.

OLD IZAAK.

A correspondent signing himself T. Chrise, at Otterburn, writes me, complaining that I am "heartless" in speaking of papers on angling, read by gentlemen in my district. By "my district," I presume he means London. My correspondent further says "you never give these papers in print for the benefit of your readers who live in the country places. We have no chance of learning anything about fishing, but have to go on in the same old way. What we want to know is how you fish in your part, and to compare it with our own."

As regards the first part of my correspondent's complaint, I have little to say. To do as he suggests would occupy far too much space, and is therefore impossible. Mr. Chrise's statement, however, that those living in country places have no chance of learning anything about fishing somewhat surprises me. Surely there are plenty of expert anglers in the country, who, if they were approached on the subject, would be only too willing to oblige my correspondent and his friends with a few papers similar to those read before the members of the London angling clubs.

"Errol," a correspondent at Broadstairs, sends me the following cutting from Keile's Gazette:—"A huge Fordwich trout was on Saturday picked up dead in the River Stour, near Grove Ferry. When taken out of the river it weighed 23lb. The principal measurements were as follows: length, 60in.; circumference at greatest point, 20in.; width of tail fork, 10in.; and gape of jaws, 7in. It was getting into a decomposed state, but the colours were still discernible. The lower jaw was considerably curved upwards, causing quite a cavity in the upper jaw. When in prime condition it has been estimated that it would have weighed from 35lb. to 40lb., and that its age must have been at least twenty-five years. The fish was photographed by the honorary secretary of the Fordwich and Grove Ferry Angling Club, and was also seen, sketched, and a water colour drawing made by Mr. George Dowker, F.G.S., of Stourmouth."

As secretary of the Come Testimonial Fund I am very pleased to announce that the following three clubs have already sent subscriptions.—Anchor and Hope (first donation), 10s. 6d.; Angler's Pride, 10s. 6d.; Peckham Brothers, 10s. I trust the secretaries of other clubs will bear in mind that March 14th is the date fixed for closing the list.

THE ACTOR.

The audience at the Vaudeville last Monday afternoon was at least as interesting as the performance. Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" was the attraction, and it had brought together all the enthusiasts, and likewise a few of the scoffers. In one of the boxes was Miss Alma Murray; in another, Miss Lily Linfield (Mrs. Baldry) and Miss Edith Keween. In the stalls, besides a full representation of the critics, were a large number of the "advanced" school, ready and prepared to be snarled at all they saw and heard.

On the whole, the play went off very well. It was not nearly so much "guyed" as the presence in the pit of a knot of frivolous young people might have led one to expect. Only at the more irresistibly absurd passages was a guffaw or a giggle heard. This was very fortifying, of the anti-Ibsenites, for "Rosmersholm" contains a good deal of dialogue likely to be provocative of a titter. If there is one thing at all certain about Ibsen, it is that he has no sense of humour. If he had, he could not write some of the things he does.

In the evening I was present at the last of the discussions on Ibsen at the Playgoers Club. Among others present was the lady who had played the heroine in "Rosmersholm,"—who can hardly have been gratified by the uncomplimentary reference made by one of the speakers to the acting witnessed in the afternoon. Let us hope that, as she and the orator were at the extreme ends of the room, she did not hear the disparaging words, which, of course, were uttered in ignorance of her being there.

I was much struck, in the course of the debate, by the persistency with which certain speakers referred to the least pleasant features of "Ghosts" and "A Doll's House." The former, which really is not fit to be talked about before ladies, was especially dwelt upon, and the chairman would have done well to have called at least one gentleman to order. Of the historical and romantic plays of Ibsen, which have no unpleasant characteristics, not one word was said by the anti-Ibsenites, who direct all their artillery against a couple of the social dramas.

On Tuesday evening the dramatic critic who went to the Vaudeville to see the new one-act play, "We Too," were sent empty away. On arriving at the theatre they were informed, with all due apology, that the piece had been "unjuncted," somebody or other holding that he has rights in it which, if the performance had gone on, would have been infringed. The management, it appears, had only just received notice of the injunction—too late to communicate the fact to the critics whom they had invited. It happened to be a very foggy night, so the gentlemen of the press were probably not in a very good temper over the matter.

For myself, being disappointed at the Vaudeville, I went on to the Haymarket, where I stayed long enough to witness Miss Julie Neilson's first re-entry since her illness. She was very cordially received. It is a pity that in her acting she is so self-conscious. She plays far too much to the audience. Not until she can forget herself in her roles will this handsome and clever lady become a genuine artist.

Mr. Castle's fencing lecture, with illustrations, could not have been delivered in a more appropriate place than the Lyceum. Mr. Irving is himself an expert fencer, as he has often proved himself; while the importance of good fencing to actors generally is too obvious to be insisted on. It was hoped that Mr. Irving would have taken part in the illustrative bouts, but he did not. He never puts himself forward at Lyceum functions. He kept equally in the background at M. Maurel's lecture. I was sorry to see him looking somewhat tired and worn. These reviews no doubt give him a good deal to do.

An old evil, against which I have more than once protested, crops up again this week (unless in the interval, some change be made). For Tuesday afternoon are announced no fewer than three performances of new plays. Now, though there are newspapers which allow the services of two dramatic critics, there are probably few, if any, which employ three, and so one at least of these three matinees is likely to go practically or partially unrecorded. Yet there are three other afternoons at least in the present week which might have been chosen, had the matinee-gives been so minded.

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GENERAL CHATTER.

Is the Russian influenza on the rampage again? Among our circle of friends and acquaintances there is scarcely a family but has one or more members laid up with a peculiarly distressing sort of cold which displays several symptoms of the Russian scourge. Extreme and very sudden debility is the most marked feature of the new terror, which is also accompanied by intermittent attacks of fever, abnormally high temperature, and loss of appetite. The best remedy is to stimulate the action of the liver and skin at the beginning, and when that is accomplished to go in for quinine in small doses three times a day. Should this method of treatment prove ineffectual, call in a doctor at once.

The introduction of coloured beads, in imitation of jewels, into trimmings of all kinds, is quite a craze just now. The more glitter and sparkle the better, as far as fashion is concerned. What a striking addition to an afternoon costume is one of those fashionable jewelled girdles, but what a price you have to pay for them! Make it at home, and it will cost you very little beyond the exercise of taste and patience. A plain black silk girdle is not expensive; get one, and with glass beads, which can be obtained cheaply of every size and shape and colour, decorate it according to your fancy; the tassels at the end look well with strings of small beads of the colours used on the girdle mixed through them. You can make jewelled head-trimmings on a foundation of either silk or woolen braid with good effect, and very easy and fascinating work it is.

Look out for Pearson's Weekly next week. For the matter of that, it is always worth looking out for, being as good a pennyworth as the rest of the world could desire. But I more particularly direct attention to the forthcoming issue because a little bird whispers to me that it will contain an interesting memoir of the People, from birth up to date. Our readers will be astonished to find, at the wondrously quick growth of that favourite journal. Nothing like it is on record in the history of the English press; it is a great phenomenon as if a human being were to reach the dimensions of Goliath within a year of birth. And this remarkable development still goes on, too, so that the paper seems to have come within measurable distance of circulating more largely and more widely than any other weekly journal in the wide world.

London would be a much pleasanter place for human residence if there were a range of high hills on the eastern side. A screen of that sort would in some measure tone down the asperities of the horrible east wind, which seems to have become much more common than in the good old times. I detect that hateful breeze wherever met with; even in the heart of Asia it generally brings fog and fever on its wings. Perhaps science will some day discover a method of changing its character; that would be worth paying for handsomely.

The recruiting difficulty seems to me to lie in a nutshell. An average working man, with or without a family, can almost make sure of having at least a shilling a day to spend on his little pleasure, after making due provision for board, lodgings, and clothing. The young soldier, on the contrary, rarely has half that sum in his pocket, owing to the innumerable deductions to which his pay is subjected. Clearly, therefore, the one thing needful is to bring the soldier up to a level with the civilian toiler in this respect. It would cost the nation a big sum, no doubt, but not nearly so much as conscription, the only other alternative.

These professional agitators who are perpetually running amuck against the railway companies, on the pretence that their profits are exorbitant, should turn their attention to such concerns as Brannier, Mond, and Co. That company has just yielded a 40 per cent. dividend to its fortunate shareholders, whereas not a single line in the kingdom returns one-fourth as much. And the best of the joke is that Mr. Brannier, the "boss" of this surfeited company, sits in Parliament mainly by virtue of the working class.

I have one word of warning to give to any who may be thinking of immigrating to the United States. If on faring thoughts intent, they should go far inland in search of an opening; the older States of the Union are pretty well used up for agricultural purposes. Listen to what an official report just presented to the Albany Legislature says on that head, with respect to husbandry in the great State of New York—

"Everywhere we are confronted with the statement that farming lands are depreciating, that sales are infrequent, and that the industry is continuously becoming less profitable. So, no matter what inducements are held out, don't be tempted to tarry in any of the maritime states, but he away to the far west.

When lately partaking of a modest quencher at a certain hostelry a little way out of London, I saw the buxom landlady give a florin to a cadaverous looking gentleman in seedy black attire, who accepted it with effusive thanks. As soon as he was gone nine honest men mentioned that he was collecting on behalf of a local charity in which she takes some interest. Great was her disgust when a customer informed her that the cadaverous one also earns money as a temperance speaker, and that when thus engaged he is wont to ornament his discourse with scurrilous words of publicans. He will not get any more florins at that inn, I imagine.

MADAME.

I must tell you of a novelty in trimming I have lately seen carried out, very effectively, by a plain tailor-made costume, forming part of the trousseau for a forthcoming bride. The gown was of tan coloured check tweed, with innumerable lines of yellow, brown, red, and blue, in a small pattern, running through it. Of course, it was built, as all tailor-made gowns are, with the inevitable plain skirt. It had a tight-fitting jacket bodice with open fronts; the sleeves, long and narrow at the wrists, were well raised at the shoulders. The bodice was made with a double-breasted vest of tan coloured smooth faced cloth, buttoning up to the throat, and finished at the neck with a plain round band. The trimming, however, was the feature. In place of the conventional hem with rows of machine stitching, round the bottom of the skirt was a thick roll of piping quite two inches and a half in circumference, made of tan coloured smooth cloth, like the vest, padded with cotton wool; it formed a raised thick roll. The bodice was similarly treated, the roll of piping being carried round the open fronts and basque and also round the wrists. This trimming may be made in velvet on coloured woolen materials, and given a stylish finish to a plain costume.

A few words about vests or waistcoats to be worn with the open fronted bodice, as this style has caught on wonderfully, and is a welcome boon to the home dressmaker. It is much easier to turn out a well made waistcoat bodice, semi-tight-fitting, with open fronts and a vest of some other fabric, than to make one of the same material, fitting quite tight to the figure.

Then there is the advantage of cutting up short lengths of a variety of stuff, the most suitable being corduroy, velvet, smooth cloths, or leather; while for loose vests all kinds of soft silks, plain, spotted, or brocaded according to taste, may be used. Loose vests of nun's veiling muslin or chiffon look particularly well for brightening up an afternoon reception toilet.

While we are on this subject I must give you a further hint. These fashionable vests or waistcoats ought always to be made separately from the bodice, so that with the same woolen skirt and jacket of some neutral tint that will harmonise with almost anything, you can assume at will, for the morning, say a tight-fitting velvet or corduroy waistcoat, and in the afternoon a full loose vest of soft silk, which you can replace in the evening for dinner toilette by one of a delicate shade of nun's veiling muslin or chiffon.

The introduction of coloured beads, in imitation of jewels, into trimmings of all kinds, is quite a craze just now. The more glitter and sparkle the better, as far as fashion is concerned. What a striking addition to an afternoon costume is one of those fashionable jewelled girdles, but what a price you have to pay for them! Make it at home, and it will cost you very little beyond the exercise of taste and patience. A plain black silk girdle is not expensive; get one, and with glass beads, which can be obtained cheaply of every size and shape and colour, decorate it according to your fancy; the tassels at the end look well with strings of small beads of the colours used on the girdle mixed through them. You can make jewelled head-trimmings on a foundation of either silk or woolen braid with good effect, and very easy and fascinating work it is.

By the way, the latest fad in this direction is to have the three seams at the back of gloves for evening wear studded with beads to imitate jewels; red silk gloves are to be decorated with rubies, pale yellow with amber, white with cut crystal, pale blue with turquoise, and so on to suit whatever dress is worn.

Gray is one of the leading colours of the season. I was charmed by a lovely costume worn by a pretty young actress at a smart wedding last week. The dress was of French grey cashmere, made very simple, with a perfectly plain skirt. The tight-fitting, long-basqued, outdoor jacket, was trimmed with a border of grey ostrich feathers. A small bonnet of grey velvet had a band of jet round the brim, and was ornamented with bunches of small creamy narcissus. Narrow strings of grey velvet were loosely tied in front. The fair wearer carried a large posy of sweet-scented narcissus, tied with long loops of grey satin ribbon.

But I must give you another development of the jewelled trimming I saw the same day. It was a dark ruby-coloured cloth. The bodice slightly full on the shoulders, was gathered into a bustleband, below which deep square tabs fall over the hips and were trimmed with a narrow passementerie ornamented with large, oblong, flat, ruby-coloured beads; the sleeves, high on the shoulders and tight at the wrists, were thickly studded over with the same flat beads. The skirt had three deep tufts headed with the passementerie and beads. Round the neck was a band trimmed in the same way, giving a ducal collar. The tout ensemble was admirable.

MR. WHEELER.

The fate has been cruel to me. Just when I was pleasantly dreaming of working back into good riding condition, influenza of a pronounced type swooped down upon me, and I had to abandon the saddle for a time. There are some, no doubt, who would have continued peggling away, but I consider discretion the better part of valour in these cases. The physical exhaustion consequent upon influenza is quite sufficient in itself, without adding that inseparable from riding when out of condition. I could relate many instances in which reckless young fellows have incurred serious illnesses through not knocking off at the first appearance of the enemy.

Some repairers do stick it on unmercifully when a well-to-do customer falls into their hands. A friend of mine lately sent a tricycle to a repairing shop at North Kensington, merely to have a broken saddle bolt replaced, and

THE THEATRES.

AVENUE.

The English version of Mozart's comic opera, "Le Medicin Malgre Lui," was reproduced on Thursday last at the Avenue Theatre, the performance being carried on by pupils of the Royal Academy of Music, under the able direction of Mr. Randegger, to whom—and to the stage management of Mr. Bettmann—the signal success of "The Mock Doctor" on this occasion was, to a great extent, due. Granarelli, the woodcutter, who, in spite of himself, is compelled to assume the character of a doctor, was cleverly impersonated by Mr. Tausig, who not only acted but sang well. The wife, Martine, was well represented by Miss V. Robinson, and the comical dust between the pair was cleverly sung. Mr. Tausig sang the "bottle" song, "Soft and low thy voice in my darling," capitally, and gave valuable aid in the concerted music, although he began to show signs of fatigue towards the end of the last act. The two lovers, Lucinda (Miss Cheron) and Leander (Mr. C. Edwards) were well represented, and their duet in Act III, "Speechless still," was one of the chief successes of the performance. Lucinda's nurse, Jacqueline, was impersonated piquantly by Miss Hannah Jones, who not only acted with spontaneous humour, but sang so charmingly that she rapidly became a general favourite. Mr. H. Mayne (Géronte) acted intelligently the part of the gouty old father of Lucinda, and sang creditably his share of the concerted music. His elocution stands in need of improvement. The two men servants were fairly well represented by Mr. J. Fletcher (Lucas) and Mr. E. Delbart (Valère). Mr. C. L. Walker (Helleboe) and Mr. C. Lewis (M. Robert) filled minor parts satisfactorily. The most gratifying feature in this performance was from a musician's point of view—the excellent execution of orchestral and vocal music. Only seven professional artists were included in the orchestra of sixty performers, and sixteen young ladies were included in the string band. The orchestra was the most gratifying feature in the performance; the purity of intonation, attention to all marks of expression, and refinement of style being astonishing, considering the youthfulness of the performers. The choral music, also, was well executed, and the performance was in all respects creditable to the Royal Academy of Music.

THE OUTLYING THEATRES.

With the exception of the Britannia and Surrey, the outlying theatres have fairly started with their dramatic seasons. At the Britannia, Mrs. Lane's pantomime, "The Spider and the Fly," continues to prosper, and will no doubt run for some two or three weeks yet. At the Elephant and Castle on Monday last, Mr. D'Esteve started his regular season with the production of Jerome K. Jerome's farcical comedy, "New Lamps for Old." This is the first time a comedy has been played at this theatre, and the reception accorded to this laughable piece was very encouraging to those concerned in its representation, among whom may be mentioned Messrs. F. Lacey (Honeydew), H. H. S. Austin (Postlethwaite), T. Cannan (Buster), and A. Walcott (Jenkins); Misses Ida Hazelden (Elvira), J. Herbert (Octavia), and E. Fielding (Waitress). The three scenes in which this comedy is presented were charmingly put upon the stage, and the audience, although not up to the average number on account of the dose for which prevailed, fully appreciated the diverting situations in which the various characters are frequently placed. With a little less fog the attendance should be large here during the ensuing six nights. Mr. H. Dundas's company from the Pavilion being engaged to produce "Jack in the Box."—At the Standard on Monday last Mr. J. H. Clynde made his re-appearance in England, after some two or three years' absence in Australia, as Tom Robinson in the late Charles Reade's curious yet interesting drama, "It's Never Too Late to Mend." Mr. Melville's stage is of a kind that readily adapts itself for elaborate scenic displays such as are frequently required for this drama. In a previous production of the piece Mr. Melville introduced one or two novel effects, notably in the farmyard scene, where live ducks were seen sporting in a pond of water, whilst other four-footed animals associated with agricultural districts were represented in their every-day habits. This, however, has not been made a feature of the present production. Mr. Melville probably believes in a change, and has this time made the ravine scene picturesque by the introduction of real water effects to more fully realize the beauty of a natural waterfall. As a whole, the mounting fully maintains the reputation of this house for stage pictures. On his first appearance as the ubiquitous Tom Robinson, Mr. Clydes met with a very flattering reception, and throughout the piece presented a very fair portrait of this somewhat dubious hero. He received good support in the prison scene from Miss E. Hatton. As the unfortunate George Fielding, Mr. W. Clayton scored in his passage with Susan, Miss Allister, a pain-taking actress; and good support was also rendered by Messrs. Braewell (Crawley), S. Compton (Chaplain), J. Brooks (Ley), W. S. Parks (Governor), E. Montefiore (Meadow), W. P. Dempsey (Jacky), H. Burton, and others.—The Marylebone will be closed next week for redecoration, previous to being opened by the new lessee, Mr. Henry Gascoigne, with "The Silver Flats," on Saturday, March 7th.—Mr. Clarence Holt and company will appear next week at the Stratford Theatre in "New Babylon."—The Shadows of Life" is the piece underlined for treatment at Sadler's Wells during the ensuing week. Islingtonians will have an opportunity of witnessing the amusing comedy, "The Private Secretary," at the Grand next week.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Despite the heavy fog prevailing during the early part of the past week, the attendance at Mr. Richard Wake's charmingly situated resort suffered very little decline. This is not to be wondered at, for the presence of the electric light does away with whatever disadvantage may accrue from the presence of fog in the auditorium. It is impossible for music hall habitues to do otherwise than appreciate the excellent series of entertainments forthcoming here, nor fail to admire the completeness with which they are placed upon the stage. This week the entertainment has been approached by a well-rendered selection of airs from Gounod's "Faust," a task of which the members of the orchestra have admirably acquitted themselves under Mr. H. Corrigan's leadership. A prominent place in the programme is set apart for Messrs. J. B. Howe, W. Glenney, and Miss Julia Summers. These capable actors find plenty of material in a most interesting and highly sketchy entertainment, "A Sister's Honour."

A man of gentlemanly appearance entered the Hotel Metropole the other afternoon, and asked to see some one whose name was not known at the hotel. While inquiries were being made, a waiter observed him in the drawing-room, kneeling down, with one arm over a small table containing an exhibit of Messrs. Litchfield's, Hanway-street, and attempting to force the lid with a screw-driver. The manager was called, and the man taken to Bow-street, where he was formally charged and committed for trial at the March sessions. About three months ago a theft was made from the same table, and in consequence the lid had been made especially secure.

THE DARING BANK ROBBERY IN THE CITY.

Some of the notes recently stolen from a walk clerk at the National Provincial Bank of Eng. have been traced to Queenstown, and it is conjectured that the thief has gone to America, and Lieutenant Frank Travia, who

funny folks, gathered round a table, indulge in some very lively antics by which to draw attention to the remarkable ventriloquial powers possessed by their chief. Miss Ada Webb performs many graceful natatory acts in the crystal tank; Mr. T. E. Dunville relates some of his adventures in a lively ditty, "Lively on, lively off;" Mr. George Fairburn faithfully mimics his brother artists, both as regards action and voices; and the entertainment is still further enriched by contributions of various descriptions. Mr. Tom Fancourt, Bells and Bijou, Miss Daisy de Roy, the Four Flashes, Professor Burk, the Eclipse Trio, and others. There is no chairman at this hall, a more modern device being utilised for informing the spectators of the individuality of the occupants of the stage; and Mr. George Chapman, the assistant-manager, is always at hand to see that no "waits" occur.

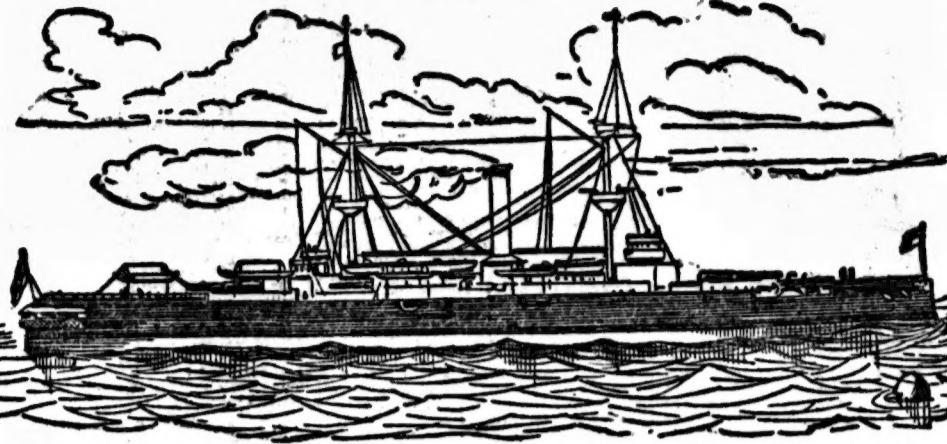
M. Sardon having revised his play, "Thermidor," and toned down the more vehement tirades against Robespierre and the Red Republicans of the First Revolution, the veto of the Government has been withdrawn, with the result that the piece will shortly be seen again at the Theatre Francais. Doughtery, who so long persecuted Miss Mary Anderson before her marriage with his amative attentions, and on his relegation to a lunatic asylum murdered a physician, has been tried, proved sane and guilty, and condemned for his crime to death.—Mr. Beerbohm-Tree made an excellent president of the dinner in aid of the Dramatic and Musical Benevolent Fund last Monday, at which the donations realised £250, the highest figure yet reached at any of these annual festivals. Mr. Grundy, in speaking to the toast of the drama, indulged, after his wont, in personalities addressed to Mr. H. A. Jones, who was present in depreciation of his opinions lately given in a lecture upon "Playmaking." The successful dramatist, however, by a silent silence, declined to follow suit in the bad taste exhibited by the no less popular adapter.—Mr. Silvano Dauncey, nee Jones, a brother of the play writer, and the private secretary of Mr. Tree, has written a one-act play, entitled "Charity's Cross," which is shortly to be produced in London.—The Independent Theatre, which, in imitation of the Paris Theatre Libre, the enterprising Mr. Green and his followers of fellow-playwrights are starting in London, will commence operations at the Royal with a translation of Ibsen's "Ghosts," to be followed by original dramas by Messrs. George Moore, Cecil Raleigh, W. Wilkie, &c., with translations from Björnson, Strindberg, Tolstoi, Banville, Goncourt, &c. a formidable list, at any rate, numerically, considering "We Two," the new curtain raiser advertised for production on Tuesday at the Vaudeville, in which Mr. Conway was to have made his re-appearance, was not acted, consequent upon an injunction having been served upon a question of copyright. "Diamond Dene" is daily referred to follow, whenever necessary, Woodbarrow Farm.—Mr. Watkin, late of the Avenue, unlikely to re-open the Shaftesbury with comic opera.—Two leading London managers, Mr. Irving and Mr. Hare, have addressed letters to the press, justly protesting against the action of the London County Council in putting theatres and music halls upon the same footing in their new bill before Parliament. But managers keenly demonstrate the broad difference, as tested by an artistic and intellectual standard, between the two forms of entertainment.—To give Mrs. Bernard Beere, still suffering from the disease caused by her trying illness, a medical rest, Mr. Wyndham has considerably deferred the revival of "The School for Scandal" for three weeks, for which interval he has produced the two lighter pieces, seen last summer at the Criterion, "Sowing and Reaping" and "Trying it On." In the former piece Mr. Wyndham again expatiates with admirable effect the tortures of jealousy suffered by a married man, not in his gay bachelor days, had treated his friends' wives as fair game. An adaptation of this piece—both versions owing a French source—furnished Charles Mathews with a favourite character, the counterpart of that now played by his best successor as a comedian, Mr. Wyndham.—Ibsen's "gruesome" play, "Rosmersholm," was introduced to London playgoers at a Vaudeville matinee on Tuesday. The solemn negation of whatever has hitherto been universally regarded as true and beautiful in human nature, which constitutes the gospel of the Norwegian dramatist, which actually justifies murder by exonerating the murderers on the score that she is rightly acting in accordance with her "individuality," which ultimately leads her, with the husband of the wife she has driven to suicide, to deliberately adopt the same course, not a self-inflicted punishment, but to prove the elevation of their natures and their moral confidence and belief in each other. In face of such a topsy-turvy exposition of human duties and openly avowed atheistic convictions it was no wonder that, despite the constant hubbings of the angry section of Ibsenites present, the majority of the audience laughed the little laugh of scorn at the gravest crises of the play and greeted it with the silence of contempt when the curtain finally fell.—A special entertainment will be given at Deacon's Music Hall on Saturday next, the last occasion on which the hall will be opened.—Mr. A. Melville has taken Sanger's Amphitheatre, Westminster, with a view to producing dramatic and musical pieces there.—Mr. A. Swanborough, brother of the courteous manager of the London Pavilion, has been appointed to act in a similar capacity at the Royal, Holborn.—Mr. Charles Morton, the doyen of music hall managers, will sever his connection with the Alhambra on March 21st next. On the 19th inst. he will be honoured with a complimentary matinee at which a great number of theatrical and music hall celebrities have promised to assist. The grand ballad, "The Sleeping Beauty," will also be played on this occasion.—On and after Monday next London will have an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with the Colibri Midgets at the Empire Theatre. These miniature mortals, six in number, are said to have created quite a sensation in Paris, where they have lately been exhibited.

DARING ATTEMPT AT ROBBERY FROM THE HOTEL METROPOLE.
A man of gentlemanly appearance entered the Hotel Metropole the other afternoon, and asked to see some one whose name was not known at the hotel. While inquiries were being made, a waiter observed him in the drawing-room, kneeling down, with one arm over a small table containing an exhibit of Messrs. Litchfield's, Hanway-street, and attempting to force the lid with a screw-driver. The manager was called, and the man taken to Bow-street, where he was formally charged and committed for trial at the March sessions. About three months ago a theft was made from the same table, and in consequence the lid had been made especially secure.

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THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN.



THE QUEEN AT PORTSMOUTH.

A BRILLIANT CEREMONY.

There was a general holiday at Portsmouth on Thursday, in honour of the visit of the Queen, who was to launch the Royal Arthur and the Royal Sovereign. As early as eleven o'clock the whole route over which her Majesty was to pass was lined with troops and bluejackets, and the large building shed where the Royal Arthur lay was crowded in every gallery with people in holiday attire. The dockyardmen in the meanwhile had removed as many shores as safety would allow, and at twelve o'clock, when the Prince of Wales arrived, the ship was only supported by her cradle and a few short beneath. The chief constructor explained the mechanism of the launching apparatus to his royal highness, who appeared to be altogether greatly pleased with the preparations for the Queen's arrival. At 12.35 a salute from the Duke of Wellington announced that her Majesty had reached the station, and fifteen minutes afterwards she arrived at the pavilion. The chaplain of the dockyard read prayers, and after a pause of twenty minutes, during which time the remaining dogshores were knocked away, the Queen released the bottle, encased in flowers, causing it to

break on the ship's bows, and thus christening her. The machinery for releasing the dogshores was afterwards touched by Her Majesty and the ship glided out swiftly at two minutes to one o'clock. Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Connaught accompanied the Queen, and Admiral Von der Goltz represented the German Emperor, and was presented to her Majesty, as was also the chief constructor, Mr. Deadman. This ended the first portion of the ceremony. The Queen arrived at the dock where the Royal Sovereign was floating at 1.15, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and Connaught, the Lords of the Admiralty, &c. Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Connaught and their children were also on the platform, as were Admiral Commerell, the commander-in-chief, Admiral Gorrie, Captain Pearson, Admirals Chads and Jones, and Colonel Crease, commanding the Royal Artillery; also the German admiral and the captain of the Oldenburg, and other distinguished visitors. The service was again read by the chaplain, and her Majesty broke the bottle on the bows and named the ship. After a short pause, the mechanism connecting the ship to the dock was released by the Queen by electricity, and amid the cheers of the spectators, the vessel was hauled out of dock at her Majesty's command, by hydraulic capstans. The ship left the dock at 1.25. On board her were 250 stokers, under Commander Neale, and they manned the ship, the Marine Artillery band playing "God Save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia." The Queen, with the royal party, and suite, afterwards went to Admiralty House for luncheon. Her Majesty received those officials who were commanded in the ball-room. At four p.m. her Majesty drove to the departure platform and proceeded to Windsor, being attended on the platform by the Lords of the Admiralty, the Commander-in-chief, and his Royal Highness, commanding the Southern District. The Duke of Wellington and the batteries saluted Her Majesty's departure.

AN INCIDENT OF THE QUEEN'S JOURNEY.

A curious incident occurred during the Queen's journey from Portsmouth on Thursday. As the special train conveying her Majesty was slowly passing through Guildford station, a large number of indignant people had collected on the platforms, and were shouting Mrs. Brown, who was being removed from the Assize Court to Wandsworth, having just been sentenced to six months' hard labour for assaulting her servant at Horley. It was a singular coincidence, and might reflect upon the loyalty of the people of Guildford.

ALLEGED ADVERTISEMENT FRAUDS ON WOMEN.

A young man, giving the name of Arthur Newman, who returned his address and occupation, was charged at the Bow-street Police Court with stealing by a trick a postal order of the value of £5 from Mrs. May Dennis, a widowed lady. The prisoner was further charged with having a number of letters containing postal orders for £5 each, supposed to be sent to follow, whenever necessary, Woodbarrow Farm.—Mr. Watkin, late of the Avenue, unlikely to re-open the Shaftesbury with comic opera.—Two leading London managers, Mr. Irving and Mr. Hare, have addressed letters to the press, justly protesting against the action of the London County Council in putting theatres and music halls upon the same footing in their new bill before Parliament. The respondent is the daughter of a retired clergyman, and is now residing with her father in Edinburgh. There was a crowded court.—Formal evidence as to the marriage of the pursuer and the defendant on August 3rd, 1882, by the father of the bride, the Free Church minister, at the time of Castle Douglas, having been given, the pursuer stated that there were three children of the marriage. He was now residing with his mother, having shut up Oakies three weeks ago. Unfortunately, excessive drinking has been a most marked feature of his wife's life for the past two years. He had remonstrated with her on the subject, and proposed that they should become testotellers. He had himself been a testoteller for two years. In the autumn of 1883 they met the co-defender for the first time on board the yacht of his wife's cousin at Portobello. He did not like the man's style, and told his wife that he was not a desirable man to have at the house. His wife replied, "Oh, that will be all right." He had never seen the co-defender from that day to this. He stayed some time at North Berwick last summer, and his wife's father and mother were with them to try to keep his wife sober. He was in Edinburgh on October 18th last, his wife knowing that he was, and he saw his mother, who told him she had heard that Shielis had been hanging about his wife at North Berwick. In consequence of that information he wrote to Shielis. He left Edinburgh on the Sunday evening for Galashiels, and was met at the station by his brother James, who made a communication to him. That evening he said to his wife that he had been told that she had had Shielis out at Oakies, which was contrary to the agreement they had made, and also that he had heard that Shielis had been hanging about his wife at North Berwick. In consequence of that information he wrote to Shielis. He left Edinburgh on the Sunday evening for Galashiels, and was met at the station by his brother James, who made a communication to him. 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WHITECHAPEL

MYSTERY.

QUEST AND VERDICT.

REMARKABLE EVIDENCE.

ADLER AT THE POLICE COURT.

At the resumed inquiry into the death

Frances Coles, the victim of the Whitechapel murder, Charles Sadler was deposed: I am a waiter, employed by Stephen Longhurst, coffee-house keeper, 73, Whitechapel-road. At 8.30 on the morning of February 18th a man asked for tea. On his left wrist were some blood-cocoas. He complained that his ribs hurt him. I did not serve him with a second cup of cocoas because he was drunk. He "smelt if he had been in a doctor's shop." The man read the paper until 7.30, and then left, walked straight.—Stephen Longhurst corroborated, and stated he had identified Sadler as the man who was in the shop. The last witness was, however, wrong as to the time Sadler stayed. He left between 8.30 and 9.0 o'clock. He was recovering from the effects of drink. Witness supplied a man with a second cup of cocoas.—Frederick Smith, waiter at Lockhart's coffee-house, Tower Hill, said: Early on Friday, February 18th, I was cleaning the urns in the shop. I heard a man groaning, and I looked through the window. I saw a man coming from the Mint Pavement. It was then within a few minutes of two—as nearly as possible five minutes to two. Two constables came up most behind the man, who complained to me that he had been knocked about. He did not stand there more than five minutes. I sent him away towards the Minories. I met him in the street, a Jurymen. I doubt whether you could have seen a man three feet of your shop.—Witness: I did see him. By Mr. Lawless: I did not see a third constable. I did not watch them the whole time. I am not sure that they did not walk down the street with him. I don't think it is possible they were there more than five minutes. It is possible the policemen walked for twenty yards before they came to the window. I heard them talking, but could not see what they were doing.

HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE MURDER. Joseph Hassell, a fish porter, 51, Wentworth-street, employed by Mr. Shuttleworth, the deceased woman, at 1.30 a.m. on Saturday, 19th, came into the shop and asked for "three-pennyorth" of mutton and some bread, and she ate the food in the corner. Frances stayed a quarter of an hour, and he asked her to leave three times. She said, "Mind your own business," and he put her at into the street, and she turned towards Brick-lane at a quarter to two by the clock.—The Coroner: She was tipsy, but she knew what she was about. She was a very wide (shrewd) woman. (Laughter).—By Mr. Lawless: The clock is set right once a week. Mr. Shuttleworth put it right last Tuesday, when it had lost a quarter of an hour.—By the Jury: On February 18th the time was correct by that of a public-house, as we went over to see on February 19th eleven o'clock.

THE STORY OF THE KNIFE. Duncan Campbell, a seaman, stated that on February 18th he was staying in the Sailor's home in Wallis-street. In the morning, at 11.15, he was in the hall standing by the fire when a man came in and spoke to him after sitting on a seat by the fire. He said, "I am nearly dead. I have been out all night, and I've got robbed. I'm dying for a drink." He produced a knife (a clasp one with a metal handle), and said, "Will you buy it?" Seeing him so bad and shivering the witness felt pity for him, and gave him 1s., the price he asked, and half his tobacco. The witness took the knife, opened the big blade, and said, "This is not an English knife." He answered, "No; I bought it abroad." "Where?" the witness asked, and "In America," the man replied. The man had taken it out of his pocket, and after receiving the money, went straight out into Leman-street. They were not talking more than five or six minutes. About eleven o'clock the witness heard of the murder, and he then went into the lavatory and looked at the knife, but saw nothing upon it. Witness continued: I felt the big blade and clammy feeling came over me. I then got basin of water and dropped the knife into it. I left it in about a minute, at the same time rubbing the knife with my fingers. Then took out the knife and wiped it on a dry towel. I then looked at the water and saw it was slightly salmon-coloured. I then put the knife in my pocket, went up to bed, and slept until half-past three in the afternoon. On the Saturday afternoon (the next day), being short of money I went to Mr. Robinson's shop and he offered to buy the knife for 2d., and sell it back on the Monday for 9d. He would not lend 9d. on it. One thing I have forgotten. When the man sold me the knife on the Friday morning he said, as he was leaving, "It has cut many a model." I thought he meant ship's model. On the Sunday evening I was talking to some sailors in the home, and told them about buying the knife. In consequence of what they said to me, I went off to the Leman-street Police Station about half-past ten, and made a statement to the police, giving a description of the man I saw in the home. We then went to Robinson's, and the knife was produced.

IDENTIFYING SADLER. I have identified Sadler as the man who sold me the knife. Sadler was among fifteen or sixteen, all dressed as seamen, and was the last one I looked at.—By Mr. Lawless: When I saw Sadler in the hall he had a cap on, and I at once thought he was a fireman. It was dark in the hall, and especially dark by the fireplace. At the police station I looked round the men twice, but not to the extreme end. When I looked to the extreme end I saw the man and walked straight up to him. The men were facing him on the starboard hand. (A laugh.) The man had a death peak to his cap which came down right over his eyes. I lifted his cap to look for a seam I previously saw on the "starboard side" of his head.—A Jurymen: We don't want the starboard side; we want the right or the left.—Continuing, the witness said: In the home his cap was awry. Several men had beards. Sadler's beard is a common type among sailors—it is the American style. No one had told me he had a scar. When I looked at the knife a curious feeling came over me. The water was coloured.—Mr. Lawless: If the knife had had some yellow sand on it would have coloured the water? Yes, but it would have been dirty and this was clear. I did not think the colour was that of blood.—By a Jurymen: I did not see it at all.—By the Coroner: Rust from the knife might have turned the water salmon colour.—By a Jurymen: I washed the knife because I thought the man might have had something to do with the murder. My suspicions were not increased after the washing. I intended to keep the knife to see if anything turned up. I think Sadler had more than one knife.

JACK THE RIPPER'S KEEPS. Thomas Robinson, who bought the knife from the last witness, said that when the latter showed him the knife he remarked, "Oh, it looks like 'Jack the Ripper's knife'." The Coroner: Then you have seen Jack the Ripper's knife?—Witness: continuing, said I sharpened the knife on Saturday night and I used it for supper. I used it dinner on Sunday.—By Mr. Lawless: It was blunt, and I sharpened it on a water stone.—Edward Delaforce, a boy cook at the Tower Hill

Shipping Office, said a man came at 10.30 a.m. on February 18th, and presented the account of "T. Sadler, ship Fez," for £4 15s. 1d. There was blood on the paper, and the man said he got into a row in Thrawl-street, and was knocked about by some old hags, and was beaten. The man was paid.

EVIDENCE OF CHIEF-INSPECTOR SWANSON. Chief-inspector Donald Swanson, Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, deposed: On the afternoon of February 18th I was at the Leman-street Police Station at noon when Sadler was brought in by Sergeant Don. I spoke to the man. One of the officers who brought him in said, "This is the man Sadler who was with the woman in the lodging-house." I asked him to be seated. He said, "Am I arrested for it?" I said, "No; certainly not. But it is necessary to take a statement from you to help us to throw some light upon the matter." He replied, "Very well." I took his statement down in writing as well as I was able. The statement was taken down in the room into which he was brought.

SADLER'S STATEMENT.

Witness produced Sadler's statement, which reads as follows:—

I am a seaman, and am generally known as Tom Sadler. I was discharged at seven p.m. on the 18th inst. from the steamship Fez. I think I had a drink of Hollands gin at Williams Brothers at the corner of Goulston-street. I then went, at half-past eight p.m., to the Victoria Arms, between 8.30 and 9.0, I saw a woman whom I had previously known, named Frances. I had known her for eight months. I first met her in the Whitechapel-road, and went with her to Thrawl-street, a lodging-house, and I stayed with her all night, having no bed, and the lodging-house. I didn't remember the name of the house, but I think it stayed with her. I think I then took a ship, the name of which I do not remember. I did not see this woman again until I saw her in another bar of the Princess Alice, between 8.30 and 9.0. I saw a woman whom I had previously known, named Frances. I had known her for eight months. 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Such beautiful
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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Monday.

"INFANTS" AND BETTING.

Lord HIRSCHELL in moving the second reading of the Betting by Infants Bill, said it rendered penal the sending of betting circulars to boys at school and youths at college, a practice which had led to very great evils. (Hear, hear.) He had been urged to include within the scope of the measure the money lending circulars which were often received by young men and boys. (Hear, hear.) The matter was certainly cognate, and if he received sufficient support he should be glad to extend the operation of the bill in that direction. (Hear, hear.)—Lord D'Eyncourt hoped that the measure would be extended in the way suggested, as the sending of money lending circulars to infants was a common practice. —Viscount CHANZBROOK, in supporting the bill on the part of the Government, said it was unreasonable to prosecute fortune-tellers, and do nothing to those who carried on a trade which was much worse and far more injurious consequences. It might fairly be said that infants who were supposed to be rich had been left to take care of themselves, while Parliament had been busy in preventing the poor from being entrapped. (Laughter.) The lending of money to infants was nothing but false pretences—(Hear, hear)—and when a man could be induced, after attaining his majority, to renew acceptances given during his infancy, he not infrequently found himself encumbered for the rest of his life. (Hear, hear.)—The Lord CHANCELLOR thought the object of the bill would be better attained if the offence could be dealt with summarily by the magistrates. (Hear, hear.)—The Earl of Atcham said these betting circulars were not only sent to public schools, but to private schools as well. His son, who was twelve years of age, had received them at a private school, with an intimation that his father need know nothing about the matter. (Laughter.)—The Archishop of Canterbury affirmed that there were luncheon bars in the City where young clerks were perpetually solicited to put money on horses, and money was often offered to them to begin with. He thought the Post Office ought to stop the Hamburg lottery letters, which were so frequently delivered, though he believed they were illegal. (Hear, hear.)—The Bishop of London said that he recently noticed on a church building committee the name of a man whom he knew to be a betting agent, and whose circulars he had seen. When he (the bishop) remonstrated against this man being on the committee, he was met with the charge that he was discrediting a well-known and very useful occupation. (Laughter.) The sooner Parliament made it plain that it did not consider this a useful occupation the better. (Hear, hear.)—The Marquess of SALISBURY said it was no doubt desirable to stop the sending of betting and loan circulars, but his fear was that these men were men to whom character was of little importance, and that if they employed other names, or employed agents who were men of straw to conduct their correspondence, the bill might be defeated. It appeared to him that the great object of these men was to get young men in their toils, so that when they came of age they would renew their acceptances. (Hear, hear.) He ventured to suggest as a remedy that it might be made an answer to any action that a similar debt had been contracted by the person sued, when under age, and to the same man. If that idea could be thrown into practical shape it would interfere with the attainment of the great object these men had in view. (Hear, hear.)—Lord HIRSCHELL agreed that however carefully the bill was framed some successful attempts would be made to get round its provisions. They might, however, check the evil by making it more difficult and dangerous. (Hear, hear.) He accepted the suggestion that the offence should be punishable on summary conviction, even with diminished penalties.—The bill was read a second time.—Lord HIRSCHELL subsequently introduced a bill making it penal to send money lending circulars to infants; and the measure was read a second time, with a view to its consolidation with the Betting by Infants Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Monday.

TEN-SHILLING NOTES.

Mr. J. STYVENSON presented a petition from the ministers, members, and adherents of the Wesleyan Methodist connexion, bearing in the aggregate 291,709 names; and Mr. Fenwick presented a similar petition from the Primitive Methodist Connexion, signed by 198,832 petitioners, praying the House to pass the measure to prevent the sale of intoxicating drink on Sunday.

THE LATE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Mr. CORNELL asked the Home Secretary whether, under the Coroners' Act, 1827, upon being informed of such a death as that of the late Duke of Bedford, the coroner's public duty was, as soon as practicable, to issue his warrant summoning a jury; or whether it was not the custom to give the jury a day's notice?—Mr. MATTHEWS said he was informed by the coroner that he was not aware that the general custom of the London coroners was as stated. At any rate, it was not customary in his district. The death was reported between 10 and 11 p.m., on January 14th, and the warrant to summon the jury was issued the next day, and service of the summons took place during the same afternoon. The coroner's officer issued thirteen or fourteen summonses, and the coroner gave the name and title of the deceased to the officer who filled up these summonses in the name of Russell, giving the initial "F." The coroner gave no directions as to the filling up of the warrant. The title of the deceased person was never given in the warrant so far as the coroner knew.—Mr. CORNELL: Do I understand that in the warrant the deceased was described as "Russell"?—Mr. MATTHEWS: I so understand the coroner's letter.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

In committee on the Army Estimates, the debate on the vote for 153,000 men was resumed. In the course of the discussion, Lord HASTHORPE referred at some length to the recommendations of the royal commission over which he presided.—Mr. STANHOPE, in reply, gave an account of the steps which had been recently taken to give effect to them.—Mr. LABOUCHER moved the reduction of the vote by 3,220 men, being the number of our troops in Egypt.—Sir J. FERDUSON, in reply, said the occupation of Tokar had been advocated by all the Egyptian authorities, military and civil, as it formed a base of attack against Suakin, and was a base also for carrying on the slave trade. In the hands of the Egyptian Government it formed an outpost for Suakin, the key of the Eastern Sudan, and an avenue for trade with the interior. On the general question of the Egyptian occupation, it was impossible to withdraw until the prosperity and security of the country were assured.—Mr. MORLEY maintained that the occupation of Tokar was fraught with future disasters, and that our occupation of Egypt paralysed the whole foreign policy of this country.—The amendment was defeated by 124 to 32.—The vote was ultimately agreed to, and the vote for £2,000,000 for pay and allowances was under discussion when the debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Tuesday.

Messrs. DILLON AND O'BRIEN.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Sir T. Eason that Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien were now in the infirmary wards of Galway Gaol, but it appeared from a very careful report of the medical officers that their health had not broken down.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, in answer to Mr. Bockett, confirmed the announcement that a royal commission would be appointed to inquire into the relations between employers and employees, and whether it was desirable or possible to initiate legislation with reference to these questions. He hoped the commission would commence its sittings as soon as possible.

Mr. KNOWLES, in reply to Mr. Bockett, said it would be very undesirable to leave out of the scope of the inquiry

questions relating to the mining industry of the country.

THE INCORPORATION.

Mr. BARTLEY moved for a committee to inquire into the present working and incidence of the income-tax as now imposed.—The motion was seconded by Sir J. Colowen, and supported by Mr. C. GRAY and others.—Mr. W. H. SMITH, in reply, expressed the belief that the appointment of the committee would not be followed by good results. The hardships of the tax, so far as they existed, could only be dealt with successfully by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he appealed to the House to leave to him and the Government the entire responsibility of the financial arrangements which ought to be made from time to time.—On a division, the motion was defeated by 161 to 106.

HOUSE OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

The nomination of the selected committee on the hours of railway servants was next proceeded with.—Dr. CLARK protested against the appointment of seven of the proposed members, who, he said, were railway directors, while only one labour member was placed upon it.—Sir M. H. BAILEY agreed to add to the committee two labour members, and the names on the paper were then agreed to.

WORKERS' TRAINS.

An animated debate arose on the motion for the second reading of the bill making it obligatory on the railway companies having terminals in London to run workmen's trains within a radius of two miles of their termini up to eight o'clock in the morning and after five o'clock in the evening at a fare not exceeding a farthing a mile.

Great diversity of opinion was expressed as to the value of the bill.—Sir M. H. BAILEY advised the House not to agree to the motion, as the Board of Trade had not yet been fully consulted with regard to many details.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER.

Mr. SMITH, in answer to Colonel Waring and Mr. Series, said that undoubtedly the interests of Ireland and its inhabitants, as well as those of every other part of the United Kingdom, would be considered in the arrangements for the constitution of the commission. Replying to Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Smith said the commission would have no power to interfere with the present legal rights and liberty of combination which the organised trades of the country possessed. But undoubtedly its duty would be to inquire into the conditions under which the unfortunate disturbances of labour arose during the last year.—Lord CROMPTON asked whether the inquiry would include Government offices; for instance, the Post Office, where relations had been strained.—Mr. SMITH was not able to give an answer on that point.

FACTORIES AND WORKERS' BILL.

Mr. MATTHEWS moved the second reading of the bill, and explained that its object was to bring all workshops and factories on the system of electing the parochial boards in Scotland. The bill proposed to abolish all ex-officio members, and to entrusted the administration of the poor law to popular bodies, elected on the same basis as town and county councils.—Mr. MAX BROWNE moved the rejection of the measure.—In the course of the discussion, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL for Scotland opposed the bill, on the ground that the present system had been eminently successful, and that the change proposed would alter the whole poor law administration of the country.—The bill was rejected by 183 to 139.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Wednesday.

The greater portion of the sitting of the House of Commons was taken up with a discussion on the motion for the second reading of Dr. Cameron's bill for remodelling the system of electing the parochial boards in Scotland. The bill proposed to abolish all ex-officio members, and to entrusted the administration of the poor law to popular bodies, elected on the same basis as town and county councils.—Mr. MAX BROWNE moved the rejection of the measure.—In the course of the discussion, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL for Scotland opposed the bill, on the ground that the inquiry would include Government offices; for instance, the Post Office, where relations had been strained.—Mr. SMITH was not able to give an answer on that point.

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THE LATE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

On the motion to go into committee on this bill, Lord BAXFORD stated that on the second reading Lord SALISBURY said the minor amendments might be considered in grand committee, and he wished to know whether it was intended to restrict amendments in the committee of the whole House.—Lord CAMBRIDGE understood that there was no restriction.

—Lord HIRSCHELL was of the

same opinion.—The House then went into Committee.—Lord BAXFORD drew attention to clause one (sub-section one), and said the suggestion that there could be a modification by contract was mischievous, and ought to be omitted.—After a discussion the question was left to the grand committee.—Several amendments having been disposed of, the bill passed through committee, and the House adjourned at 7.40.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

There has been a dense fog in the Channel for several days during the past week.

It is now admitted that steps are being taken to fortify Heligoland.

"General" Booth has visited Berlin during the past week.

Troublesome employés can be discharged, but it is different with troublesome debts.

The number of persons killed on the United States Railways in 1890 was 806, while 2,612 were injured.

St. Louis manufactured 1,672,000 barrels of flour in 1890, 2,036,000 in 1888, 2,016,000 in 1888, and 985,000 in 1887.

It is not improbable that Lord Randolph Churchill will accompany Mr. Cecil Rhodes on his return to South Africa.

It is expected that the next annual conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations will be held at Birmingham.

Two boys have fought a duel in Paris after quarrelling about a girl. One of them, named Masson, was fatally wounded.

In 1890 there were 2,300 imprisonments for drunkenness and 192 for selling liquor in Maine.

Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee raise an average of 2,970,000 bushels of peanuts a year.

It now appears that petitions signed by 107,321 persons were presented against the Religious Disabilities Removal Bill.

Mrs. Garfield still wears mourning as deep as that which she put on when her husband, President Garfield, died, nearly ten years ago.

The number of Indians in the United States who can read English is stated to be over 23,000; the number who can read the Indian language is over 10,000.

Such was the density of the fog on Monday evening in South London that Mr. Spurgeon was unable to reach the Metropolitan Tabernacle in time for the usual ministrations.

It is the intention of the Government to propose the re-appointment of the committee which sat last year to consider the financial relations of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

During Mr. Balfour's visit to Windsor Castle he was interrogated by the Queen as to his trip in the west, the condition of the distressed districts, and the condition of the country generally.

A recent survey, it is stated, has established the number of glaciers in the Alps at 1,153. The French Alps contain 144 glaciers, those of Italy 78, Switzerland 471, and Austria, 402.

An Indianapolis church member who subscribed to a church building fund attempted to wriggle out of it by claiming that the contract was illegal as it was made on a Sunday, but the court decided he must pay.

The late Mr. Samuel Carter Hall, who was born in 1800, related that a mile or so outside the little Irish town of Castlebar he had stood in a field where sixty fatal duels had taken place.

The Queen has expressed herself as greatly pleased with the reception of her Imperial Majesty the Empress Frederick in Paris. The Queen looks upon the visit as both well timed and well justified.

Sir Jonah Barrington records that in his time 227 duels—all with pistols—were fought between Irish officials, and that at a club in Galway no new member was admitted who had not shot and killed his man.

The Louis XV. jackets are increasingly popular with ladies contrary to expectation, and there is a tendency towards fulness in the basques, or skirts, as it is more correct to write of a coat of this period.

In the year 1889, the last of which the police statistics have been published, out of 15,513 drivers of cabs 281 were prosecuted for furious driving, and 4,355 for loitering, plying, obstruction, delay, stopping on the wrong side of the road, and other small offences.

The blizzard which visited Nebraska a fortnight ago was a terrible affliction. Eddie Chester and Stephen St. Peters, aged about 14 years, of Kearny, who had been out hunting, were afterwards found frozen to death in a cornfield.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes will visit France before he returns to South Africa. He intends to spend some time in the Bordeaux district studying the phylloxera question, which is of considerable interest to the wine growers of the Cape.

A meteorite, which is said to have looked about the size of the full moon, burst over the town of Madison, in the State of Maine, on the night of February 22nd, the blazing fragments being scattered in every direction. The houses were shaken as if by an earthquake.

Before Sir Charles Tupper departed for Canada he received formal and definite assurances of the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the attempt of Sir John Macdonald to establish reciprocity between the United States and Canada, and was authorised to communicate the same to the Canadian Prime Minister.

Morphy Tydil is seriously excited. At St. David's Church the organist at the close of the service played the "Dead March"—not as a lamentation for the death of some prominent citizen, but because this was the last time on which the old choir would occupy their accustomed places, the rector having decided to replace them with a surpliced choir.

Mr. Osborne, the proprietor of the *Sunday World* at Columbus, Ohio, had a bitter controversy with Mr. Elliot, of the *Sunday Capital*. Meeting in the street a few days ago, the journalists drew their revolvers. Poor Osborne was shot dead, Mr. Hughes, the late steward of an insane asylum, was instantly killed, and two other bystanders were shot in the arm and leg.

In the Boulevard Macmillan, Paris, there is living an old woman who has attained the age of 105 years. She was born at Berville-en-Caux, in the department of the Seine Inferieure, in 1788, and still retains her intelligence, though her rheumatism will not allow her to walk about. She eats, sleeps and drinks well, and sometimes amuses herself by singing romantic old songs of a former age.

What is a "disgusting song"? At the North London Court two boys were fined 2s. for disorderly conduct in High-street, Clapton, their disorderly conduct apparently consisting of their persistently singing a well-known comic song whose title, the policeman said, was "Hi-tiddley-hi." "If," said his worship, "boys sing disgusting songs they must expect to be punished."

Mr. Barlow, deputy-coroner in Liverpool, is decidedly of opinion that the practice of juries seeing the bodies of dead persons may in most instances be dispensed with. The general objection to it is that it serves no useful purpose; secondly, is dangerous to the public themselves, obnoxious to them, and repugnant to the feelings of the relatives of the deceased. Acting on these principles, Mr. Barlow has just absolved a jury from this long-established part of their duty.

Among the historic buildings just now undergoing demolition is Goldsmith's house at Peckham. It had been one of the show places of the neighbourhood for many years, and the name, "Goldsmith's House," was set up over the door. The poet, as a matter of fact, however, never possessed any rights of ownership there. This is what really was the case: In 1757 Dr. Milner's academy was there,

and to him Goldsmith acted for a short time in the capacity of usher.

Most men are "generous to a fault"—when the fault is in their own.

It is strange that debtors have to be "stirred up" before they will settle.

Disaster is unknown to the contipeda. He has never yet been on his last legs.

A pretty girl's face value is greatly increased by the possession of a wealthy papa.

Baccarat should now take the place of "Whist" in the game of the "Bogie Man."

The young man who courted an investigation says that courting a girl is much better fun.

There is a scarcity of stenographers in Savannah, Ga. They are short-handed, so to speak.

Ladies seldom hit the nail on the head. They are always more apt to hit the nail on the finger.

If you desire anything done, go to a busy man. Men of leisure never have time for anything.

One of the easiest things in the world is to economically lay out the money you will never have.

Some men think they know everything—until they get house, and their wives ask them where they have been.

By the will of the late Mr. John Hodgreen, of Yorkshire, the Curates' Augmentation Fund has received a legacy of £500.

Willesden has adopted the Free Libraries Act, the result of the poll being—for the adoption of the Act, 2,253; against, 1,970.

The Prince of Wales will, by command of the Queen, hold a levee at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on the 9th March, at two o'clock.

Princess Christian has consented to open a bazaar, to be held on Thursday, April 30th, in aid of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, London Fields, Hackney, of which the Rev. W. G. Morcom is the vicar.

At Spalding Sarah Poythorpe has been committed to the assizes on a charge of arson. She admitted causing four fires within six months on a farm belonging to her father's employer.

A middle-aged cook named May, in domestic service in Finchley Park, was charged, at the North London Police Court, with having three times set fire to her bedding. The magistrate directed that the facts should be placed before the solicitor to the Treasury.

At the Lambeth Polytechnic there is a ladies' gymnasium, where classes are conducted by a qualified instructor, a retired Army sergeant. All the usual exercises are carried on, not excepting fencing, in which art several of the girl pupils excel.

At a meeting of the Kendal Corporation, it was decided to confer the honorary freedom of the borough upon Mr. Alderman Savory, Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Alderman Savory is connected with Kendal by family ties, and is at present a director of one of the principal factories there.

Mr. Sheriff Augustus Harris on Tuesday opened a bazaar in the school-room attached to the Clarmont Congregational Church, Kentville-road, in aid of the funds of the church and the various agencies connected therewith. He headed the subscription list with £10 10s.

Lady Tenison, who is known to be an excellent amateur musician, is about to make her first appearance as a composer. She has at various times during the past quarter of a century written melodies to no fewer than fifteen of the Poet Laureate's hitherto unpublished poems.

The means by which the House of Commons is kept comparatively free from fog are both ingenious and expensive. The air pumped in from the river terrace is driven by steam fans through beds of cotton wool, which retain all the impurity, leaving the air comparatively pure. The cotton wool beds are six inches thick, and cover an area of 800 square feet.

Rumours are, as usual, current this year to the effect that the income-tax collectors are receiving special orders to press forward collection of the tax, some of them intimating that the latest time allowed for payment is the middle of March. A Conservative member will in the course of next week ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there is any truth in this report.

Reports continue to be received from different parts of America of distress caused by floods. Thousands of persons have been rendered homeless by the inundations in the Salt River Valley, Arizona, and Yuma is entirely submerged. It is also reported that there has been loss of life. In the Gila Valley, in the same State, houses have been destroyed, and many persons rendered homeless.

The other morning the engine of a passenger train came into collision with a light engine at the crossing point outside Waterloo Station. The light engine was thrown off the rails. The passengers in the train received a severe shaking. The line was blocked, and passengers were compelled to alight at the Necropolis platform.

Edith Pay, the wife of a waiter, living at Hammersmith, went to visit a sick old man, who had just breathed his last when she arrived. Mrs. Pay, overcome by the intelligence, sank into a chair and exclaimed, "I believe I am going to die." She immediately became unconscious, and death ensued from heart disease.

Giving judgment in the dispute arising out of the will of the late Sir James Tyler, Mr. Justice Stirling ruled that the Merchant Taylors' Company and the British and Foreign Bible Society had failed to establish their claims to bequests of £42,000 each, while the London Missionary Society had succeeded in its claim to £24,000.

The total amount of life insurance in Great Britain appears to be nearly identical with the total of our national debt. Taking the reports of eighty-one offices, the insurances in force last year reached the enormous sum of nearly £685,000,000, besides which the total of life and annuity funds was returned by the same offices at upwards of £235,000,000.

Much valuable property has been destroyed by a fire which occurred at Maids Moreton Lodge, near Buckingham, the residence of Baroness Kinsloss. The contents of the drawing-room were removed, but those of the library, dining-room, and many other rooms were totally destroyed. Only the walls and chimneys of a large portion of the residence remain.

An alarming outbreak of pneumonia among children has occurred at Raunds, a shoe-manufacturing village in Northamptonshire. The children range from 5 to 7 years of age, and there are at the present time nearly seventy serious cases. Three deaths have occurred, and the matter is causing much uneasiness in the village.

Major Sylvester, 50 years of age, a visitor staying with his wife and family at Eastbourne, was drowned the other afternoon. The deceased and his boy, 15 years of age, were in a row-boat, and off Beachy Head they endeavoured to change seats, but the boat overturned, and the father was drowned before the eyes of his son. The lad managed to cling to the boat, and with one oar rowed himself ashore.

Mr. Ryan, secretary to St. Mary's Hospital Paddington, has been examined before the House of Lords committee on the management of the London hospitals. He said he was not in favour of creating an outside faculty to prepare drawings, specifications, and conditions of contract for a tunnel, not less than 20 ft. in internal diameter, which shall afford the means for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The original resolution authorising the sinking of a shaft as a preliminary work, was rescinded.

Baron de Worms, speaking at Manchester, alluded to the war between capital and labour, which, he remarked, was strife of giants. The royal commission which the Government proposed would be composed of men of vast experience, representing the moneyed and the labour classes, and he could not imagine a more important question than that one which His Majesty's Ministers were endeavouring to solve.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1890, when there was a balance of £1,230,261 to February 21st, 1891, were £79,812,251, against £79,600,150 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £2,592,002. The net expenditure was £75,731,931, against £73,636,049 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balance on February 1st, 1891, amounted to £9,322,205, and at the same date in 1890 to £6,239,109.

During the early hours of Thursday morning P.C. Overy, of the Rochester city police, discovered four men in a large empty mansion a short distance from High-street. In attempting to apprehend one of the men the others attacked Overy, and after badly maltreating him made their escape. On searching the rooms a very large and miscellaneous assortment of burglarious implements was discovered. The police consider they have made an important discovery, and have telegraphed a description of the men to London and the surrounding county police stations.

Bearing in mind the expressed desire of the Government for some regulation of the sale of non-medical poisons—that is, poisons excluded from the schedule of the Pharmacy Act—one part of the Registrar-general's recently published report has a considerable significance. In 25 per cent. of the suicides by poison, the deadly dose consisted of carbolic acid or some of the common mineral acids which are easily procurable as tea and sugar. The same substances, moreover, are

accountable for 10 per cent. of the accidental deaths by poisoning.

This is said to be the severest winter known in Cabul for fifty years.

The premises of Mr. J. Sweet, hosier, Falcon-road, Battersea, have been almost completely destroyed by fire.

The premises of Mr. Simpkins, steam printer Savoy-street, Strand, have been severely damaged by fire.

Mr. Farnell has summoned several of his followers from London, in order to assist in the organisation of his party in Ireland.

The Queen has approved the appointment of Lord Windsor as Paymaster-general and member of the Privy Council.

Severe weather prevails in Turkey. Railways, postal, and telegraphic communication has been most irregular and unreliable lately owing to the heavy snow.

The Portuguese Government has received news that a violent storm has destroyed the houses erected at Beira for the Manica expedition. Great damage was done.

It was a hundred years on Monday since John Wesley preached his last sermon, on February 22nd, exactly a week before his death. That historic discourse was delivered in the little Surrey town of Leatherhead.

Herr Borenius, the Socialist agitator, was summoned at Hamburg to answer charges of blasphemy. He appeared before the tribunal, although suffering severely from influenza, and died suddenly in court.

Judge Lewis, of Pineville, Kentucky, who has been active in the prosecution of a band of desperadoes who have been carrying on bloody feuds in that region, was killed the other night by his own son, Sidney Lewis. The judge had put his son under bond as one of the unlawful gang.

Lady Hamilton, long before she became acquainted with Lord Nelson, or even served as model to Romney, the painter, was in domestic service at Hawarden. Mr. Gladstone has obtained much interesting information about this famous personage, of whom tradition still lingers in the locality.

In Paris an aquarium is maintained for the purpose of breeding fish for replenishing the rivers of France. A quantity of Californian salmon are kept in a tank specially constructed for the purpose of artificial breeding. As a result more than 200,000 healthy fish are transferred to the River Seine every year.

Austrian census-takers have discovered a score or more persons in the empire who have passed their one hundredth birthday. The oldest was the widow of Peter Hanzi. She has a certificate of birth dated December 24th, 1776. In Szeben a man named Irak showed a birth certificate dated 105 years ago.

The Paris *Police* state, in reporting a report that as soon as he is released from prison Mr. W. O'Brien will join Mr. Farnell, assert that it is a matter of notoriety among his friends in Paris that "the gallant prisoner has completely and for ever broken with his former chief."

The Horseshoe public-house, Tottenham Court-road, was the scene of a fire the other evening, caused by the overheating of the cooking apparatus. The kitchen, on the fourth floor, was damaged, and William Sadler, aged 30, was cut on the face and hands, and had to be taken to a hospital.

Lord Salisbury, acknowledging a resolution of confidence from the Heywood Conservatives, says he is glad that the policy of the Government is meeting with emphatic declaration of approval, and he assures his supporters that the Ministry will endeavour to command their continued support.

The other morning the engine of a passenger train came into collision with a light engine at the crossing point outside Waterloo Station. The light engine was thrown off the rails. The passengers in the train received a severe shaking. The line was blocked, and passengers were compelled to alight at the Necropolis platform.

For allowing her dog to "run at large un-muzzled," Lady Caroline Kaye was, at Wakefield, the other day, fined 10s. or seven days.

Chicago has unearthed a boy violinist named Diamond, who is described as "a perfect gem" by his lady hearers. He is only 15, yet he can play "anything and everything."

Mrs. Booth Tucker, "General" Booth's second daughter, is on her way home from India very seriously ill. "Commissioner Kehewian," as Mrs. Booth Tucker is called in the Indian Salvation Army, only left England at the end of last year.

In the five years ending with the present year we shall have built 21 ironclads, 21 protected cruisers, and 56 smaller vessels. In three years further we shall have added 10 battle-ships, 42 protected cruisers, and 18 other vessels.

TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNN.

The last race run by Herringbone at Manchester shows what an inconsistent brute he is, and run by that light it certainly appears hard on Mr. M'Aliffe that the National Hunt stewards should have dealt so summarily with him, more especially as their sentence has been extended by the stewards of the Jeckyll Club to all meetings held under their control. It will be remembered that the two events at Manchester, on January 27th and 28th, led to the warning of Mr. M'Aliffe from courses under National Hunt rules were the Tuesday and Wednesday Selling Hurdle Races. In the first-named of these, Herringbone, not recovered from a severe voyage across St. George's Channel, was last to Steurbay, Marpion, and Diavolo. On the next day in the second event, Herringbone easily disposed of Garrett, Carter Blue, Petersfield, and Diavolo, the last two of whom had finished in front of him on the Tuesday, and Lancashire Lad. It was on the strength of this inconsistent running that Mr. M'Aliffe was sent into exile. Last Saturday Garrett and Herringbone again met at Manchester in the Salford Hurdle Race at a difference of 6lb. in the former's favour. Whereas last month Garrett was beaten by four lengths, he, on Saturday, purposed the tables on Herringbone, defeating him by five lengths. This, in itself, shows that Herringbone is an utterly unreliable horse, and surely justice demands that the National Hunt stewards should reconsider their decision and re-open the case of Mr. M'Aliffe, who is one of the most popular of Irish sportsmen and whose friends, after Herringbone's recent displays, have no little reason to complain of the harsh treatment meted out to him.

During the past week fog has again been a terrible spoil-sport. Racing between the fogs was successfully carried out at Dunstall Park, Wolverhampton, but in the home circuits much disappointment was created by the postponement of the Hurst Fair meeting until Monday and Tuesday next. The executive at Moulsey Hurst have worked hard, and have expended so much money in furtherance of the meetings organised at that venue, that most sportsmen will sympathise with them in the ill-success of their most recent venture. After the pleasant days we experienced subsequent to the break-up of the long and severe frost, it was only fair to anticipate a pleasant reunion at the fixture, in which the National Hunt showed their appreciation of the new course at Moulsey by fixing their annual meeting there. The fog that overhung the Thames valley on Monday and Tuesday grew worse on Wednesday, and, after hoping against hope for some hours, it was very wisely determined to put back the meeting until the coming week. This was much to be regretted, as many horses had arrived on the scene of action, and it was useless to fight against the inevitable, and racing men owe a debt of gratitude to the Hurst Fair authorities for the prompt intimation they gave of their intention to postpone the meeting as above stated.

In the Midland people were more fortunate, as the fog stand was not able to get such a hold on the land, and, as we before suggested, the Dunstall Park meeting was successfully carried out, although there was on the second day a lot of mist hanging over the course. On Monday four fine favourites out of seven won their events, and these were Ulvers, Burton, Sir Blume, and Teddy. The chief event, the Wolverhampton Hurdle Race, brought out a field of six, and Wrenster, who had scored at Windsor and Sandown Park, despite his crushing weight of 12st. 6lb., was made a strong favourite. He ran a good race, but the pounds told, and he could not get near enough to fourth to Maccles, who, although not very smart on the flat, bids fair to be a very useful performer in his new sphere of life. Ding Dang, who is always at home on the Dunstall Park course, supplemented the two victories he gained there last month by winning the Dudley Hunters' Flat Race, with Mr. R. Moncrieffe, his owner, again in the saddle.

Easterwise won a couple of races at Wolverhampton, on Monday upsetting the odds bettor on the now notorious Herringbone in the Selling Open Hurdle Race, and on Tuesday placing the Oxley Hurdle Race to the credit of Mr. C. Lane, who allowed him subsequently to pass into the possession of Mr. Hickman for 22 guineas.

The Kingswinford Hunters' Steeplechase was the chief event of Tuesday's racing at Wolverhampton. Eleven went to the post, and there was a perfect chapter of accidents, as Ardmillian, George I., Elgin, and Pop all fell. The latterish at a dog, went over the rails, and badly cut her knees. Odds were betted on St. Kevin, but Mr. Loder's horse could get no nearer than sixth to the little fancied Sorceress, who won very easily from Spider. In the Apley Hunters' Hurdle Race, no little surprise was manifested when War Paint was beaten by Rosal, and Mr. Lane was so glad to get rid of the first named of this pair that he sold him privately, and the horse will probably be one of the riding and driving team of Lord Shrewsbury next month. Lady Flirris was no difficulty in winning the New Rule Hunters' Steeplechase; and Mongrel, with his owner, Lord Dudley, up, easily polished off his only two opponents, Mosquito and Novel, in the Thorneycroft Hunters' Flat Race, Calais, who won over this course last month, easily defeated Uroborus in the Daville Hunters' Selling Flat Race, but broke down badly after passing the post. The remaining races need no comment at my hands.

Early in the week there was a notable change in the Lincolnshire Handicap quotations, as Pioneer passed his stable companion, Tostig, in the wagering on Wednesday, and becomes second favourite to Wise Man Carrick, who is progressing as well as any horse trained at headquarters, was also well backed, and supposing nothing unforeseen happens to this son of Springfield no better trained horse will strip for the first big handicap of the year. On his running in the Great Tom Stakes on the Carholme last October, he must command a great amount of respect. A colt who has been backed for some money, and is likely to be supported for a great deal more, is the four-year-old Detective, trained in Sadler's stable. This son of Robert the Devil ran second to Shall We Remember in the Thirty-second Biennial at Newmarket last year, and second to Madame Neruda in the Autumn Plate at Manchester last November. He will probably make a bold bid for victory. Should he win this handicap for Lord Durham, the triumph would be a most popular one, and by many would be taken as foreshadowing the success of his stable companion, Peter Flower, in the Derby. Other horses backed early in the week for this race were Oddfellow, L'abbé Morin, Lord George, Nunthorpe, Grand Prior, and St. Cyr. On Thursday Roberto made a considerable advance in the wagering, and closely pressed his stable companion, Wise Man, in the quotations.

The opinion gains ground generally that one of the Irish-trained horses will win the Grand National. Early in the week Come Away became more of a favourite than ever, whilst Chouleur, Roman Oak, and Cruiser all had backers. Sir James Miller's Veil, since it became known that Mr. W. H. Moore would have the mount, has been the subject of considerable investment, and it would be curious

indeed if Sir James Miller were to follow up his sensational win in the Derby of last year by means of Saifain, by winning the "blue ribbon of the chase" at the first time of asking. There is a horse, however, trained in England, whose name, for prudent reasons, at present withhold, whose connections, with no little reason on their side, fancy cannot be beaten if he stands up in the chase. When the time comes to analyse the handicaps more exhaustively than has hitherto been done in these columns, it is most likely that the horse to which I allude will be one of those I shall warmly recommend.

The acceptance for the Queen's Prize at the Newmarket meeting at Kempton Park came to hand on Wednesday last. Eighteen out of the original thirty-two have cried content, and shall we remember is now at the head of the handicaps, for which the weights have been raised 6lb., with an impost of 6st. Herringbone remains in, which seems to have fair chances, as Puddington, 6st. 10lb., Curfew, 7st. 11lb., and Smoky, 7st. 2lb. The three-year-old High Heaven has also accepted, and his weight is now 6st. 12lb. Other acceptances were also made public on Wednesday, among them the Prince of Wales's Plate at Liverpool. Jumper stands in his ground, despite his weight of 6st. 10lb., and two horses who strike the eye among the contented ones are Carrick, 7st. 3lb., and the three-year-old De Boer, 6st. 7lb. In the Hythe Handicap, at the same meeting, Juggler, 10st. 6lb., has not declined; nor has the great, raking Morebattle, 6st. 1lb.

The long-awaited jockeys' licences came to hand with the last Calendar. The list shows that the members of the turf senate have already granted seventy-two permits. Among these are the names of the famous brothers, T. C. and S. Loates, Calder, Blake, Bradbury, Fagan, Rickaby, and White do not at present figure, but the list of the jockeys' licences is not yet complete; and, doubtless, a supplementary one will be published in a later issue of the racing organ.

As with racing so with football, the horrible weather of nearly part of the week altogether upset the anticipations of those Londoners who had proposed to themselves to witness in the ill-success their most recent venture. After the pleasant days we experienced subsequent to the break-up of the long and severe frost, it was only fair to anticipate a pleasant reunion at the fixture, in which the National Hunt showed their appreciation of the new course at Moulsey by fixing their annual meeting there. The fog that overhung the Thames valley on Monday and Tuesday grew worse on Wednesday, and, after hoping against hope for some hours, it was very wisely determined to put back the meeting until the coming week. This was much to be regretted, as many horses had arrived on the scene of action, and it was useless to fight against the inevitable, and racing men owe a debt of gratitude to the Hurst Fair authorities for the prompt intimation they gave of their intention to postpone the meeting as above stated.

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Nobody would have been much surprised had Preston North End defeated Sunderland in their League match at Preston last Saturday. In the first place, the old champions were rather stronger than they have been for some time past, little being made of his re-appearance in the team and playing in his well-known brilliant style, while they also had the advantage of ground; then Sunderland were pretty certain to bear in mind their own up to the following Saturday, and not to unduly exert themselves. They managed to make a draw of it, however, and doubtless hope to improve upon this performance when the teams meet again at Sunderland a few weeks hence.

It is a curious and interesting fact that Preston North End, who at one time had dropped so far down in the League list that they were supposed to be altogether out of the running for superior position, still have a chance of once more gaining the championship. They are now third, with the possibility of securing 31 points. Everton, who are now leading, have the match to play, the return with Sunderland, and if they win it, will score 31 points. In the event of a tie in regard to points between North and North End, the former would be regarded as the winner of the competition by reason of their better goal average, which is far better than that of any other club in the League. Blackburn Rovers, however, have the chance of making 30 points, but in order to do so will have to win the whole of their remaining five matches.

Notts County did not perform at the Oval in such fashion as to lead London followers of football to fancy their chance in the semi-final. The Corinthians beat them by two to one, and might have done so by much more but for the excellent defence of Thraves, their goal-keeper. There is usually a difference, however, between the play of a team in an ordinary match a week before a cup tie and its play in that tie itself. Notts might, therefore, create a surprise.

The London Cuppers are now nearing the end. The Royal Arsenal just managed to scabble home in front of the Casuals on Saturday, Clapton apparently had all their work cut out to beat Old St. Stephen's, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital were most successful in their replayed tie with Millwall Athletic than upon the first occasion of their meeting, when a draw resulted.

THE PIERCE DIVORCE CASE.

In the Divorce Division, Mr. Justice Jeune had before him an application in the case of Pierce v. Pierce, Lockwood, Davies, Turner, and Greenwood. The petition was that of the husband, a milk contractor, of Chorlton, near Medlock, for a divorce by reason of his wife's adultery with four co-respondents. The case, which has been reported, terminated on February 21st with the verdict that the respondent had committed adultery with Lockwood and Turner, but not with Davies, and the jury assessed £200 damages against Lockwood.—Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., said that the findings as to the respondent's guilt were for his lordship, and also in regard to Greenwood.—Mr. Justice Jeune said he had considered the case, and found that Mrs. Pierce had committed adultery with Lockwood, Turner, and Greenwood, but not with Davies. He would grant a decree nisi, with costs.—Mr. Inderwick applied that the £200 damages be paid into court within a fortnight.—Mr. Justice Jeune granted the application.—Mr. Priestley asked that the suit be dismissed against Davies, with costs; but as to the latter Mr. Inderwick objected.—Mr. Justice Jeune said the jury had found Davies innocent, and he could not say on the evidence that Davies' conduct had brought about the suit. Therefore, that co-respondent would be dismissed from the suit, with costs.—His lordship gave the petitioner the custody of the children.

OSMAN DIGNA'S "VISION."

The natives say that on the night before the action Osman Digna had a vision, in which he was told that the lives of all the Egyptian force were in his hands. His plan was to occupy Tokar, and fall on the Egyptian force as it was marching through the thick surrounding bush. Fortunately, however, we reached Tokar five minutes earlier than he anticipated. Osman Digna watched the fight from a distance, and when the dervishes were repulsed fled rapidly to the Tamarim, and thence up Khor Baraka. The Arabs of the surrounding districts are bringing in cattle and milk, and a market has been established.

AN AUSPICIOUS ANNIVERSARY.

General tranquillity now prevails throughout the district, which is wonderfully fertile, with quantities of cotton and flax every

where. The troops are comfortably quartered, and the wounded are doing well. Great gratification has been caused by the receipt of congratulatory telegrams from her Majesty the Queen and the Khedive. It is noted as a curious coincidence that Tokar was retaken and the Egyptian flag was again set flying over the ruined Government buildings on the anniversary of the fall of Tokar seven years ago.

BATTLE AT TOKAR.

A BRILLIANT VICTORY.

DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING.

A correspondent at Tokar furnishes the following detailed account of the fighting on the 19th inst. It brings out clearly the dash and gallantry of the engagement and the skillful manner in which the Egyptian troops were handled. Owing to intelligence received on Wednesday, that the enemy intended to attack the Egyptian force while it was advancing to Tokar, Colonel Hollid Smith resolved to lose no time, and accordingly started at daybreak on the following morning from El Teb, the cavalry leading the advance, under the command of Captain Beech. Major Wingate, as staff officer, directed the march. The cavalry drove in the enemy's mounted scouts and reached Tokar at ten o'clock in the morning. The infantry arrived twenty minutes later. At the same time the enemy was seen advancing rapidly in a semicircle through the thick bush. Their presence was only shown by an occasional glimpse of moving men, and by the large banners waving above the bush, while the hills a mile distant were covered with their reserves.

RACING FOR THE HORSES.

There was not a moment to be lost. Colonel Hollid Smith, rapidly taking in the situation, disposed of his troops in the following manner: The 4th Battalion, under Captain Hackett-Pain, lined the ruined buildings on the right; the 11th, commanded by Captain Macdonald, occupied the left of the position; while the 12th, under Captain Besant, had previously moved up to cover the front on the left of the 4th Battalion. The troops took up their positions at the double. The water and ammunition were borne by camels and mules, which, under the management of Captain Macmillan, of the staff, were massed together at the north end of the village, the cavalry being stationed near them. It was now a race between the troops and dervishes for the possession of the few houses lying outside the general line of defence. One company of the 12th, under Captain Martyr, dashed forward, seized a small house just in front. This momentarily checked the dervish advance, and the troops were able to pour a withering fire into the midst of the enemy, of whom upwards of a hundred fell within a few yards of the building. This company then fell back into the general line.

A CRITICAL MOMENT.

The enemy were now enveloping our entire fighting line and gradually outflanking us, while their horses, under Osman Naib, dashed round the right flank, threatened our rear, an extended position weakly held, and harassed by the transport animals. The 11th, bringing up their reserve company, checked the surging movement on the left, accounting for considerable numbers of the enemy. The situation was now for a moment critical, but this battalion advancing rapidly some 500 yards, cleared the front, carried the ruined houses in succession, inflicting great loss on the enemy, and then took up a position on rising ground. It was during this advance that Captain Barrow, who was with the 12th Battalion, acting as brigadier-major, fell. He was shot through the body, and died almost instantly. Captain Macdonald and Lieutenant Jones both had their horses shot under them. During this operation the 12th Battalion was steadily beating back the enemy, who, with the greatest determination, was charging on the centre of the position, while the 4th by steady volleys from the ruined houses occupied by them on the right checked the surging movement in that direction.

A FARM DANGER.

Meanwhile, the transport animals, which had been deserted by their Arab drivers, began a stampede. Fortunately, however, many were driven back by the staff, and not a moment too soon, for already some of the enemy's horsemen, seeing the weak point, had got among the animals. The cavalry at once charged out and dispersed the dervishes, but not until after some severe hand-to-hand fighting. It was during this battle that Captain Beach, of the 29th Hussars, was wounded in the head. In the meantime the search party had gone vigorously to work, night and day, looking for the bodies of the victims. It was not believed possible, however, that any of the missing miners would be found alive. The four men whose bodies were recovered on Sunday were declared by the doctors who made the post mortem examination to have died from starvation, while the four others, whose bodies were found next day, were proved to have been drowned. Worse, however, the workers were engaged in the deepest shaft, they heard a faint tapping from part of the mine which had been abandoned since the disaster. The searchers listened, and the same tap was taken twice, the only occasions on which it has been offered. Last night, when it was won by Starlight, the mare was exhibited by Mr. Sutton-Melthorpe. At the meeting of the Shire Horse Society in the afternoon, Lord Hothfield was elected president for the ensuing year. In spite of the foggy weather, the attendance at the Agricultural Hall was very large.

TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS IN A MINE.

ENROMED ON NINETEEN DAYS.

Five miners, who have been entombed nineteen days, have been found alive. Since the date of the accident, a search party has been steadily at work, night and day, looking for the bodies of the victims. It was not believed possible, however, that any of the missing miners would be found alive. The four men whose bodies were recovered on Sunday were declared by the doctors who made the post mortem examination to have died from starvation, while the four others, whose bodies were found next day, were proved to have been drowned. Worse, however, the workers were engaged in the deepest shaft, they heard a faint tapping from part of the mine which had been abandoned since the disaster. The searchers listened, and the same tap was taken twice, the only occasions on which it has been offered. Then he spoke of the philosopher, the warrior, and the statesman, and concluded with a curious poetical effusion:—“Duck, pens, and potatoes, boiled lobster, finishing up with cheese and champagne.” The correspondence all through was couched in affectuous terms until the beginning of October, when he wrote to his father: “He would not accept the offer he had an offer from Messrs. Spiers and Pond at ten guineas per week, but his father would not allow him to accept it, as he thought the defendant would do better in his own establishment. The plaintiff knew the Mason family some little time before she married Mr. Cotes, the defendant's sister, at Hammersmith. At that time she lived with that lady's family, and was perfectly intimate with them. This young gentleman formed

A VERY STRONG ATTACHMENT.

for her, and this counseltouch was not to be wondered at. He wrote loving letters to her in Yorkshire, whether she had gone in the pursuit of her calling. There appeared to be no intention on the part of the defendant to take to literary pursuits; but judging from his letters, and the so-called poetry they contained, he thought he acted wisely in sticking to the beef business. There was one letter, written on a Sunday afternoon in March, 1890, which took up more of the character of a sermon than anything else. It commenced “Dearest Ada,” and went on:

“There needs no other proof that happiness is in the most wholesome moral atmosphere, and in which the immortality of man is destined ultimately to thrive, than the elevation of the soul, the religious aspiration which attends the first assurance of the first sober certainty of true love.”

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AFFAIRS OF A PUGILIST.

The public examination of Frank Patrick Slavin, described as a pugilist residing at 43, Chevelton-road, Putney, came on for hearing at the Wandsworth Bankruptcy Court on Thursday, before Mr. Registrar Whittingby. The official receiver stated that he had no important power to examine the debtor on, as it had been placed in his hands which would satisfy all the creditors' claims. The debtor, in reply, to the official receiver, stated that he had disclosed the whole of his liabilities and assets. He further stated that he had not paid his solicitors anything on account of costs, but he understood they would be paid by a friend. An application was made by counsel on behalf of the petitioning creditor that the costs should be allowed. This application was opposed by the debtor's solicitor, but finally the registrar granted the application. The examination was eventually closed.

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MR. B. SILVERTON will give advice, by post or consultation, free of cost, to any person suffering from deafness, tinnitus, &c., or from any disease of the ear, nose, & throat. See Trade-Dir. & Post-Office.

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VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

Communications intended for this page should be delivered at the office not later than 12 o'clock on Saturday.

I am somewhat surprised at an old Major head-quarters that before the recent meetings of Volunteer commanding officers a representative of the men should have been called to consider what the men had done. Regimental officers mix with their men pretty freely when not on duty, and have ample opportunities afforded them of ascertaining their views on all matters connected with drill and organisation. Take as a whole, they are the paid representatives of the feelings of the men; the paid representatives of the feelings of the men; every question of change or reform would simply be to still further weaken the very narrow line which divides the commissioned from the non-commissioned ranks.

The old story is told again that it will not do to tighten the bands of discipline in the force unless it is at the expense of reducing its numbers. Give the men good officers, and then there is no fear of any diminution in numbers among the class who ought by age or infirmity to fall out of the ranks. That is wanted in sufficient Volunteer units. Good volunteers are wanted. It is the duty of military men to abide in the Militia as our second line of defence, because it is tailed into the Line. So are the Volunteers since the system of linked battalions came into operation. That is denied by many, but the Justice which a long-continued, and possibly the House of Lords, thanks to Colonel Caugton, will shortly be called upon to settle this question, and as it is not my good fortune to belong to either one of the other, I am content to await the verdict.

We all know the Militia is lamentably short of its proper establishment. Every effort that can be made is being made to induce recruits to join, but all in vain. There has been a small increase in the number of Volunteers, but that can only be expected after the great increase in militia year, or the new regulations coming into operation. What we are far more concerned in is the diminution in the number of Yeomanry, which branch of the service has suffered most. Lord Wodehouse recently told us that he preferred the Yeomanry to Volunteers mounted infantry, but strange to say, the number of people to whom mounted infantry are attached is on the increase, and the Yeomanry are falling off in numbers. From a recent report of the commandant-in-chief it is evident to sight right, but, on the other hand, there is the significant fact that men crowd into the mounted infantry service, and that recruiting for the Yeomanry is almost at a standstill.

The affairs of the City of London Rifle Association do not appear to be in a very flourishing condition, but at a meeting of the society, held last Monday, there was a very unanimous feeling shown to put the association up to the test. The members have only a small balance in hand, the members have not got plenty of pink, and have resolved to go in for as many competitions as formerly. In short, the meeting may be described as a sort of reconstitution, as the council was re-elected to it stood, containing representatives of all the City corps.

The H.A.C. have resolved to visit Shropshire at Whittemore, but I am told leave has only been granted to four officers and fifty non-commissioned officers and men. This seems to me to be but a poor turn-out. In the meantime, the drill battalions are to be allowed to drill twice a week, so that the detachment may accept itself creditably at Shropshire. Recruits are still required to bring the company up to the proper standard. It is stated the field battery will enter for the competition at the Royal Agricultural Hall.

That reminds me, that there is another distinguished regiment which just now is somewhat in the rear. The Artillery Association, a small young unit to fill up, Colonel Eddie says the members of his corps shot well, but thinks that is more than the War Office has a right to expect, considering that it does not provide ranges, and does not trouble whether the Volunteers have the straw wherewith to make up the difference. Well, the fortunate thing is it is for Colonel Eddie that he is not a Regular. Only fancy what a wagging he would get if he were.

I have not much faith in the war game as a means of instruction for Volunteer officers, but it is always pleasant to read of these friendly contests, one of which has just taken place between representatives of the Liverpool and Lancashire Regt. Society. In this contest a question arose as to the destruction of a certain bridge across the Derwent, and the umpire decided that red could not be destroyed in time to prevent blue destroying it. So far all was well, but the decision of the umpire is now called in question, on the ground that the red team had not been allowed to play in the game at all. If the verdict of an umpire is to be called in question, it appears to me there is very little use in playing the game at all.

It was decided wrong to snub at this gentleman, because he holds a commission in the 10th Hussars.

The Easter programme is not of a very sensational character, small and scattered commands appear to be the order of the day. Brigadiers seem to be allowed to do pretty much as they like with their men, and the staff of the regular regiments are allowed to do the same. Men, however, making mistakes in position, are liable to punishment. If the men were gathered together in numbers at Aldershot, for instance, there would be a chance of getting a practical lesson in drill operations, and then they would have an opportunity of showing their capacity for self-government.

Now, men go for a Sunday at the seaside, and little instruction beyond that which they could acquire under their own officers on the regimental parade-ground. When will the War Office take the matter in hand and make the Master call a recess?

It is not long since an order was issued prohibiting Volunteers, except under special permission, forming guards of honour, but, like many other orders, it has been more honoured in the breach than the observance. By some巧妙的誤解, it may be thought to refer to the Lord Mayor's Guard, with a guard of honour from the City regiments on exceptional occasions, but I fail to understand why an Essex corps should have such honours assigned them on the occasion of his lordship's going in state to sit at a Masonic meeting in the City. The Order of the Garter of special distinction there can be no doubt, as I am informed the commanding officer intends making every effort to turn out a fine, smart, and well-dressed detachment for the occasion, in anticipation of which an order has been placed to get ready a new pattern uniform for the Guard. Allusion to my foreigner's idea of the importance of the Lord Mayor is an exaggerated one!

Sir Redvers Buller has always been a favourite with the Volunteers. He is an officer who has seen service in many parts of the world, and whenever he has been over he has won the good opinion of his chiefs. An evening contemporary has recently taken to patronise him, and in a gushing article on his good qualities he writes: "This is a record to make the house of the Duke of Devonshire and Courtney and Poole, and a host of other worthy Devonians, rattle in their graves. If the writer of the article in question ever happens to visit 'Kirtton,' and makes such an assertion, he would probably find out his mistake, for the author of the article, Mr. George D. Atkinson, of Exeter, son of General Martin, of Galway and Royal Corps fame, will move the Devonian Society on the subject."

Last week I happened to be at the London Sessions, when Colonel Caugton, of the 2nd London Rifles, appealed against the rating of a man in the drill hall of Finsbury Park. The lawyer had had a great deal to say, and the time of the court was occupied for four hours in a discussion as to whether certain rooms besides the armoury were exempt from rating. After all this talk and talk, Sir Peter held the guard-room in store-room, and the care-taker's and orderly's room should be considered, and therefore the ratable value was reduced by the sum of £50. He would not listen to the suggestion that the drill hall was not assessable, although it was urged as a store for arms and apparatus, signalling equipment, and so on, every three years for the charge of £500.

Sir Peter heard that on certain Saturday nights there was a smoking concert held in the hall, and, horror of horrors, that attended to was a concert! Thereupon Colonel Caugton's counsel gave way, and said he would decline his place being a storehouse, but a吸烟室, and so on, every three years for the charge of £500.

I am somewhat surprised at an old Major head-quarters that before the recent meetings of Volunteer commanding officers a representative of the men should have been called to consider what the men had done. Regimental officers mix with their men pretty freely when not on duty, and have ample opportunities afforded them of ascertaining their views on all matters connected with drill and organisation. Take as a whole, they are the paid representatives of the feelings of the men; the paid representatives of the feelings of the men; every question of change or reform would simply be to still further weaken the very narrow line which divides the commissioned from the non-commissioned ranks.

he was no theatre, no actors worthy of the name, mademoiselle. Why, the English delivery of blank verse is simply tortuous to us as an audience to hear it given in full measure and intensity. —Intelligentsia Briton. —Indeed, I have never heard Bernhardt or Cagnin recite English blank verse.—Intelligentsia Briton. —Of course not, I mean French blank verse—the blank verse of Corneille, Racine, Molévi.—Mademoiselle: —I suppose the critics are right about the thing.—[Briton still tries to look intelligent.]

SATURDAY.—Oh, mummy, darling, why can't the toyshop-man call for orders every morning, like the baker?

Chance for Spinster of an Uncertain Age—Is to be a Mahomedan minister in England.

(From Paris.)

Grandfather: Well, Harry, my boy, how are you getting on at school?—Harry, my boy: First rate, grandfather, thanks, I gave Tom Brown a licking last week, and I'm going to larras Sam Wither, the biggest bully in the school when I have a little more time.

It was a new hall, and the benches provided by the school were not quite up to the Government standard.

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